Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-087 *5 May 1994*

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Cuba

Castro, Other Officials Arrive in Barbados

FL0505011394 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0058 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cuban Commander in Chief Fidel Castro arrived on 4 May in Bridgetown, Barbados, to attend the First International Small Island Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Castro will participate in the high-level portion of the conference on 5-6 May.

President Castro traveled to Barbados in the company of Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government; Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina; and Environment Minister Rosa Elena Simeon, among other high-level officials.

Clinton Maintains Firm Stand on Torricelli Law

FL0505014494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] On 3 May, during an unusual news conference that linked him with reporters in several parts of the world, U.S. President Bill Clinton upheld his position of not varying on the U.S. policy toward Cuba. In response to a question by a Cuban television journalist, Clinton reiterated his support of the Torricelli Law and stressed that he does not expect any change in that policy for now.

President Clinton, who has been labeled as indecisive, at another point in the news conference, acknowledged that the United States is incapable of solving the problems of the world and [words indistinct] only when U.S. vital interests are endangered.

Regarding Haiti, Clinton warned that he has not dismissed the use of force and insisted that the DPRK must allow full inspection of its nuclear program. However, he was less aggressive regarding Bosnia when he affirmed that Washington's goal continues to be a negotiated peace.

Clinton Policy 'Explanation' Noted

PA0405141894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "Morning Information Review"]

[Text] U.S. President William Clinton gave a detailed explanation of the priorities of U.S. foreign policy during a journalists forum organized with CNN in Atlanta, Georgia. In this regard, Clinton talked about current areas of tension such as Bosnia, Rwanda, and Haiti. He also talked about the elections held in South Africa, among other topics. As for Haiti, Clinton said that Washington does not exclude the possibility of military intervention based on the facts that this Caribbean country is a separate case and that there is a need to stop the killings and restore democracy.

Clinton spoke in favor of not lifting sanctions on Serbia until the negotiations for a peaceful solution in Bosnia begin. As for Bosnia, Clinton announced new interventions by NATO planes if the Bosnian-Serb forces attack UN-protected territory.

The head of the White House saluted the agreement signed on Wednesday between the PLO and Israel and praised the results of the elections in South Africa saying it opens up the possibility of contributing to this country's development, which could be the key to the African continent because of its capability, according to Clinton.

As for Cuba, William Clinton reiterated his support for the trade and economic blockade of the island. Regarding the ties with the PRC in the last two decades, he said that Washington will work hard to iron out the differences between the two nations.

Colombian Foreign Minister Discusses Visit

PA0405135494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by Barbara Betacourt; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin arrived in Havana on an official visit today, immediately beginning talks with her counterpart and host, Roberto Robaina Gonzalez. When she arrived in the Cuban capital, Mrs. Sanin de Rubio spoke to Cuban and foreign journalists about the objectives of her visit and the outlook for bilateral relations.

[Begin recording] [Sanin] Since the reestablishment of relations, we have sought to obtain in-depth knowledge of our mutual circumstances. Therefore, we are going to address bilateral topics, exchange opinions and information on our respective countries, and review the bilateral agenda on commercial, cultural, and educational topics. There might also be an opportunity to talk with important Cuban personalities. I want to obtain in-depth knowledge of the reforms undertaken by Cuba in economic and political areas, because we all have great hopes that current problems will be overcome and there will be a greater opening at different levels as a result of Cuba's achievements and the reforms that have begun, based on Cuba's self-determination.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the most immediate trade prospects between the two countries?

[Sanin] Well, our overall trade amounts to $12 million. There are great opportunities. Colombian businessmen will be paying a visit. I am interested in speaking with the Cuban authorities about some points which are important to promoting greater Colombian investment in Cuba and improving trade. This brings development and opportunities. Many of our products can have a market here and many of your products can have a market in Colombia. I think we have to review certain conditions,

such as the possibility of signing an agreement on investment protection. I also want to review with the Cuban authorities the possibilities for foreign investments.

[Reporter] Does Colombia uphold its decision to sell petroleum to Cuba?

[Sanin] Colombia will sell petroleum to Cuba without any problem as long as Cuba can pay within the terms and conditions Colombia establishes for the sale of oil. If you can accept the Colombian terms, we see no problem in selling it. The letter of credit and the terms are being discussed.

[Reporter] In your view, are relations with Cuba going well?

[Sanin] They are going well because they are developing with mutual respect for domestic affairs and with a great sense of cooperation and understanding. There is interest in all sectors of the two countries.

[Reporter] How much petroleum is being negotiated?

[Sanin] I do not have that exact information because the quantity would be established based on the terms and conditions.

[Reporter] What priorities or topics does Colombia, as host, have for the fourth [Ibero-American] summit?

[Sanin] Economic topics as a basis for political reforms and their sustainability, because economic and political reforms cannot be carried out without emphasizing social aspects. In addition to the extreme poverty of a large part of our population, Latin America's great problem is the inequalities in our societies. We are going to review the opportunities that integration provides for economic development and prosperity for our peoples, but always based on in-depth social reforms.

[Reporter] Will your visit lead to a possible visit by President Gaviria before (?the end of his presidential term)?

[Sanin] It is not scheduled. The president's agenda is already quite heavy. We had not [words indistinct] but in any case we will hold the Ibero-American summit in Cartagena and we will receive President Fidel Castro on 14 and 15 (?July).

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] expect an agreement?

[Sanin] The transaction is being carried out like two normal countries. There is talk of prices, duration, and guarantees. The duration is being discussed. You are asking for a longer duration than what Colombia is willing to offer and you are offering a guarantee different from the one we are accustomed to receiving. Nevertheless, it is a normal discussion in commercial terms. We want it to be a normal commercial operation and we are discussing it. Therefore, if we reach agreement, there is a sale, and if not, it will be like so many other commercial operations that are not carried through. It would not mean [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Sanin] That is what we want, that it be a step in the strengthening of relations, a sign of cooperation and mutual respect, and of my country's desire to learn up close about the reforms under way in Cuba. Everyone knows that Cuba is experiencing various difficulties, but we are very hopeful about the political resolve and President Fidel Castro's statements yesterday about this being the beginning and that you are willing to establish [words indistinct] reforms to resolve the island's problems. We have great hope that these measures will be effective. We respect that the reforms will stem from Cuba's self-determination and we hope that the political resolve that has been expressed will be clear and real. We all want the Cuban people to be prosperous, enjoy well-being, and be able to maintain the reforms the country has achieved in social aspects such as education, health, and other fields. [end recording]

The program for the Colombian foreign minister's 24-hour visit to Cuba includes meetings with Carlos Lage, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and a working luncheon with Army General Raul Castro. In addition, she will visit the National Library and the Casa de las Americas to deliver donations of books and crafts. Along with the Cuban foreign minister, she will confirm the work program of the joint intergovernmental commission that was recently created and will sign an educational agreement. Before leaving Cuba, Mrs. Sanin de Rubio will hold a news conference.

Meets With Castro on Guerrillas

PA0405172494 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 May 94

[From "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Cuban President Fidel Castro has reiterated his government's respect for Colombia's self-determination, affirming that he does not interfere in Colombian internal affairs and saying that he does not support any guerrilla activities.

Early this morning, President Castro spoke for four hours with Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio who arrived in Cuba on an official visit. Castro said that trade relations with Colombia are at their best level, adding: Our foreign minister reiterated that President Cesar Gaviria's government is willing to sell Cuba the oil it needs, as long as negotiations meet the demands of Colombian oil authorities.

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, who accompanied Colombian Foreign Minister Sanin de Rubio, emphasized the changes made in Cuba's economy and

said that the government will encourage the necessary changes, as long as they respect its autonomy, which, he said, is not negotiable.

Sanin: Meeting With Castro 'Marvelous'

FL0405204594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio this afternoon will conclude her visit to Cuba at the invitation of her Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina. Yesterday, Sanin met with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Reporter Roberto Cavada held a conversation about this with the Colombian foreign minister.

[Begin recording] [Cavada] In remarks to Radio Rebelde, Mrs. Sanin de Rubio referred to her meeting yesterday with President Fidel Castro.

[Sanin] It was very interesting, profound, and direct. We discussed many world, regional, and bilateral matters, as well as the set of problems affecting most countries, especially the most common of all, poverty. The meeting with Fidel was simply marvelous.

[Cavada] Did President Fidel Castro send a message to [Colombian] President Gaviria?

[Sanin] Only the regular greetings, and satisfaction over the development of relations between the two countries, in a most dynamic way, and in different areas. We had a very, very interesting and profound chat on political and economic matters.

[Unidentified reporter] Did he explain the changes taking place in Cuba? You have expressed great interest in learning about the changes ...

[Sanin, interrupting] He obviously explained the measures being adopted and the policies that are going to be developed. We had a very broad conversation. At 0200 in the morning we were still talking.

[Cavada] Could I say then that you are very satisfied with this visit to Havana?

[Sanin] Yes. We have fulfilled all our objectives. We are now closer, have gotten to know each other better, and have exchanged opinions. This visit was satisfactory from all points of view.

[Cavada] Thank you very much. [end recording]

The Colombian foreign minister at this moment is talking with Defense Minister Raul Castro, following a meeting with Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage.

Cultural Agreement Signed

FL0405222094 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1949 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] On 4 May, Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin and Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina signed the ratification of a cultural agreement, dating from 1978, between Colombia and Cuba, at the Cuban Foreign Ministry. Sanin and Robaina also signed an agreement that standardizes higher education diplomas and titles.

Before signing these agreements, Sanin visited Casa de las Americas, where she donated typical Colombian items to the Latin American art exhibit. She also met with Marcia Leyseca, vice president of Casa de las Americas, Pablo Milanes, Sintio Vitier, Senen Paz, and others.

GRANMA Extols Mandela's South African Victory

FL0405231994 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] On 4 May, the newspaper GRANMA published an editorial entitled, South Africa: Triumph Belongs to Those Who Struggle, on the ANC victory in the South African elections. GRANMA highlights Nelson Mandela's words during his visit to Cuba: We are determined to have the people of South Africa forge their own future. When that moment comes, it will not have been solely through our own efforts, but also thanks to the solidarity, support, and encouragement of the extraordinary people of Cuba.

The editorial goes on to point out that the Cuito Canavale victory overturned the balance of power in South Africa, which resulted in consolidation, through the ballot, of the efforts cemented for years with blood. The GRANMA editorial pays tribute to Mandela's wisdom, revolutionary determination, and strength, noting that he and his valiant people are today the fulfillment of hopes and dreams.

Mexican Debt To Be Paid With 'Swap System'

FL0405201694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 May 94

[By reporter Juan Carlos Roque Garcia in Mexico City]

[Text] Cuba will pay part of its debt to Mexico with assets. This is a financial arrangement that combines the payment of debts with investments through the direct injection of fresh money, better known as the swap [preceding word in English] sytem.

This system is being applied to three investment projects in priority sectors in Cuba: tourism, cement, and petroleum, as reported by the Mexican press.

Concerning tourism and cement, the contracts have already been signed and are already operating. Approximately $50 million of the Cuban debt to Mexico was paid through this contract. It has to do with the Tuzpan Hotel in Varadero, where 50 percent of the shares were purchased through this channel by the DSC group from Guadalajara. The other is the Mariel Cement Plant, the operator and trader of which is the Mexican cement company, Cemex.

The Petroleum agreement will be signed in May, and according to the magazine PROCESO, a letter of intent was already signed between Mexpetrol [Mexican Petroleum Company]—the principal shareholder of which is the parastate company, Mexican Petroleum—and (Cubec), the Cuban distributor of crude oil.

This represents a joint investment of $200 million, to modernize and expand the refinery in Cienfuegos, the largest in our country. Cuba owes $310 million to Mexico. Through this procedure, the Cuban Government will pay another $50 million and will guarantee investment.

Mexico is the first country with which agreements of this type have been signed, which, according to local analysts, accords Mexico the status of a nation favored by the Cuban Government.

Government Soon To Implement ANPP Proposals

FL0505020794 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Within the next few weeks, the government will implement the accord by the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], which entrusts the government with implementation measures aimed at correcting national financial imbalances.

Among the measures, there is the introduction of a general tax system; reducing subsidies covering losses by enterprises; and increasing the price of certain utilities such as electricity, telephone, and public food services.

In the accord, the ANPP also highlighted that the government should study the appropriateness of implementing a change in currency and increasing the price of nonessential products such as alcohol and cigarettes.

Barbados

Greenpeace Criticizes SIDS Conference Substance

FL0505005594 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The historic global conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [SIDS] continues to be plagued with controversy. One of the environmental groups, Greenpeace, currently attending the conference, says the SIDS conference is not addressing important environmental issues. Anna Toney, head of the Greenpeace delegation now in Barbados, spoke with Michelle Arthur about this matter.

[Begin recording] [Arthur] According to Miss Toney, the [word indistinct] conference is not adequately dealing with environmental issues. She says the real conference promises were made to host the conference on sustainable development [words indistinct], but what is happening is Barbados is another talk shop.

[Toney] Two years later, we come here to Barbados, and yet again a lot of rhetoric, and I really do believe that there be threats of environment [words indistinct] development are so big that they can no longer wait, so [words indistinct] action plan do germinate some of the issues with very much concern such as climate change, such as [word indistinct] (bleaching), fisheries and others. We really hope the developed countries will try to give in much more on the international side of the action plan because it is all very well to tell the small developing states what they should be doing at home when you know that they do not really have to contribute too much for the environmental problems they are now facing [as heard].

[Arthur] The Greenpeace delegate is also concerned about the amount of paper and plastic materials used at the UN conference. She said the number of press releases and plastic cups and plates being used should be reduced. Greenpeace also plans to meet with the Barbados fishing community within the next few days. Miss Toney says there are many common problems facing the fishing communities all over the world. The Greenpeace ship is now docked in Barbados. [end recording]

NGO's Oppose Cuban Blockade, Haitian Regime

FL0505013194 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpt] Meanwhile, another force to be reckoned with at the conference [global conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States] is the Nongovernmental Organizations, or NGO's. The [word indistinct] has announced resolutions on Cuba and Haiti as well as the formation of a new organization, integrating NGO's in small island states. Margaret Harris reports:

[Begin Harris recording] Some of the most relentless attacks on positions of modern states against crucial, regional small island developing states have been by NGO's. Early today, [words indistinct] were resumed in a series of resolutions [words indistinct] the rights of SIDS [Small Island Developing States] over the use and control of their natural resources, and they rejected unilateral policies of some developed countries against small states. They objected to what was termed imposition of models alien to the history and traditions of the small states.

The NGO's, led by Pacific, Caribbean, and (Indian) representatives, asked the Caribbean Community to support the UN General Assembly in trying to end the blockade of Cuba.

The NGO's condemned Caribbean nations which directly or indirectly support the military regime in Haiti. Even today, they said, reports indicate that Haitians are [word indistincts] the bodies left in the street at the mercy of dogs. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Haiti

Political Groups Denounce 'New U.S. Initiative'

FL0405221994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The major political parties have not yet reacted to the possibility of a U.S. military intervention in Haiti or to the announcement of a total embargo, as advocated by the United States. The big parties, such as Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, National Agricultural and Industrial Party, National Front for Change and Democracy, Assembly of Progressive National Democrats, and Nationalistic Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti refrained from reacting, at least publicly, to those two hot points in the news.

The first reactions, however, have arrived. Some small political formations strongly criticized the new U.S. initiative to increase the sanctions and brandish the threat of a military intervention. Among the major political parties, we have the reaction of Professor Hubert de Ronceray , MDN [Mobilization For National Development], who received those statements as a new demonstration of contempt, aggression, and injustice toward the Haitian people. No to American intervention! No to any new occupation of Haiti!

The people's anti-Aristide organizations quickly reacted in condemning the statements of the United States president. Let us listen successively to the statements by Hubert de Ronceray from MDN; Jude L. Jean-Jacques of AJEPOPOA. Haitian People's Power Youth Organization; and Frank Pierre of Capois-la-Mort:

[Begin recording] [De Ronceray, in Creole] MDN finds it strange that a great country, a strong power like the United States of America does not see any other kind of democracy to offer us, sees no other kind of democracy to offer a small, poor country like Haiti but hunger, injustice, and death.

It is a shame, a waste, for such a huge power to lower itself to the point of agreeing to kill more Haitians and to send its own children to die for a chicken-minded priest who performs democracy with necklacing, iron cuts iron, and decapitation and the burning of homes.

MDN reminds everyone that nothing will change with the road we have taken with Article 149. It means the formation of an ad hoc government, the holding of elections for other CASEC's [Communal Section Administrative Councils], other mayors, other deputies, other senators, another president.

[Jean-Jacques, in Creole] In the face of threats of intervention being sent by some American legislators and the State Department spokesman; in view of the arrogance of some diplomats or spokesmen in the country asking for military intervention in Haiti, we are asking the president of the Senate office, Bernard Sansaricq, and the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Robert Monde, to assume their responsibilities so that a state authority can be established and the country's Constitution respected; to manage the criminal, insane UN/OAS embargo and defend the country's security. Up with political stability! Up with democracy! Down with anarchy! Down with U.S. intervention!

[Pierre] We say no, no, no; this will not do. Those people should not confuse 1915 with 1994. In 1915, the United States landed in Haiti and killed our children, brothers and sisters, aunts, grandfathers and grandmothers; then in 1994, from the generation of the great Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Charlemagne Perralte, and the great independence hero Capois-la-Mort, we say no, it will not happen. We have the blood of those ancestors in our veins. We in Capois-la-Mort ask the Haitian Army to neither give in nor to second guess what they heard. They must stand firm so the parliament can become strong because the Haitian Army is responsible for representing the country and watching over lives and property in Haiti. [end recording]

MDN Leader Urges Resistance

FL0405140594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1130 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Any solution to the crisis lies in the implementation of Article 149, according to statements by Professor Hubert de Ronceray who rose up again on 3 May against the latest statement of the White House, which does not even rule out a military intervention in Haiti. De Ronceray thinks if Article 149 is implemented, all conflicts and all threats will end.

[Begin De Ronceray recording, in French] As long as the United States of America and the international community refuse to understand that the true enemies of democracy are illiteracy, hunger, unemployment, the lack of road and energy infrastructures, they will have no other alternative than the physical destruction of the Haitian people. As for those who deny us the right to resort to Article 149 of our fundamental charter to solve an internal political problem which is a matter of concern within our sovereign competence, we want to ask them: Since when have the Governors Island agreement and the New York pact taken the place of the 1987 Constitution? Facing this watershed, heavy with ordeals and humiliation for the black Haitian nation, the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] calls on all genuine sons and daughters of our country to keep cool and to serenely resist the new challenges of the international giants. [end recording]

This was a statement by Prof. Hubert De Ronceray, leader of MDN.

National Coalition Condemns Interference

FL0405171994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1130 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] On 3 May, the National Coalition [CN] met at 1500 at the Villa Saint-Louis Hotel where they passed a

resolution after several rounds. The CN asks in the resolution... [pauses] they say they condemn the interference in Haitian affairs of foreign countries under the pretext of defending democracy and human rights.

Second [as heard], the coalition advises that it energetically rejects any foreign military intervention by the United States or other countries in Haitian territory.

Third, they say they are in solidarity with all [words indistinct] while acknowledging the need to work toward reforms to be made in the country.

Fourth, the coalition reaffirms its resistance against foreign invaders (?and is) sounding the trumpet to prevent (?them) from walking on Haitian soil.

Fifth, the CN calls on all staunch Haitian citizens to work to put the Haitian nation back on his feet so it can once again find its place among the nations as the beacon of the black world.

Sixth, they ask the Haitian parliament to issue a verdict as a matter of urgency and in a precise and categorical manner against military intervention and the members' presence of the UN/OAS Civilian Mission in Haiti.

Seventh, they ask the Haitian Armed Forces to assume their responsibilities so as to allow the civilian authorities to actually take the nation's fate in hand and to accompany the people on the road to development and democracy.

b) [as heard] They ask the Haitian Army to stop all terrorist acts being committed throughout the country against people's lives and properties so as to avoid the trap set by all the destabilization professionals. They also ask the Army to organize, within its constitutional authority, the defense of the country's territory.

Eighth, in conclusion, the coalition asks the parliamentarians and the other powers in the country to consciously and independently make the decisions that are essential today so a head of state and a competent and responsible government—inspired by Article 149 of the (?Constitution)—can be appointed at the head of the country. They also ask that the deterioration process of the country set in motion by the international community reach an end. The CN resolution was passed by vote on 3 May at the Villa Saint-Louis Hotel.

FRAPH Women Oppose Intervention

FL0405210994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The Movement of Women of the Revolutionary Front for the Promotion and Progress of Haiti [Mouvement des Femmes du FRAPH, MOFFRAPH] and the Haitian People's Power Youth Organization [AJEPOPOA] say they are opposed to any form of military intervention in the country. In a statement over Signal FM, the two organizations denounce the latest measures being considered by the U.S. Government, involving the reinforcement of sanctions and possible armed intervention in Haiti. MOFFRAPH and AJEPOPOA ask the Haitian people to rise up against such decisions.

[Begin unidentified MOFFRAPH spokeswoman recording, in Creole] MOFFRAPH is seeking independence and freedom. We prefer to stand up and die rather than kneel down and die. We are surprised to hear Americans will land on Haitian soil. So, we in MOFFRAPH urgently call on the parliamentarians to fill the presidential vacuum before they go on vacation. Courageous women, courageous men, it is time. MOFFRAPH says: Grenadiers, to the attack! [end recording]

PANPRA Promotes Anti-FRAPH Bloc; Opposes Sanctions

FL0405225694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] PANPRA [National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti], led by Serge Gilles, has recommended realistic compromises on a series of democratic stakes to assure social peace and the country's governability. PANPRA in its monthly bulletin calls on democratic forces to create an historic, centrist, pluralist bloc and a legitimate constitutional transitional government of broad concord to fight political violence.

The socialist organization points out that all of the conservative forces have mobilized into a paramilitary organization with declared political ambitions, FRAPH [Revolutionary Front for the Promotion and Progress of Haiti]. Enjoying great impunity, this organization has imposed a nationwide campaign of intimidation, backed by blind, monstrous, indiscriminate violence. PANPRA adds that the poorest supporters of the president-in-exile often must choose between enrolling in FRAPH or being unbearably harassed.

PANPRA further criticizes the attitude of the international community, which is showing its true colors by playing the humanitarian samaritan while reinforcing the embargo. It can be assured that if President Aristide ever returns, all that will be left for him to govern will be zombis, piles of garbage, and a desert country.

CONACOM: Total Embargo 'New Form of Violence'

FL0405222994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] CONACOM, National Congress of Democratic Movements, a branch of Haitian socialism, believes that a total trade embargo will constitute a new form of violence that will cause further victimization, mostly among the working class, the peasantry, the middle class, and national contractors.

Baja California Deputy Attorney General Arrested

PA0405190694 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by Samuel Prieto Rodriguez; from the "Early News" newscast]

[Text] Tijuana Judicial Police agents arrested Sergio Ortiz Lara, deputy attorney general of the Baja California Government. He is being accused of providing support and protection to drug traffickers of the so-called Tijuana Cartel. The investigations could implicate him in the recent assassination of Federico Benitez Lopez, who was public security director in Tijuana.

Diego Valadez, attorney general of the republic, reported the arrest of the deputy attorney general of Baja California, Sergio Ortiz Lara, who was charged with association with criminal intent, abuse of authority against the administration of justice, and assisting in the escape of prisoners. He is accused of sheltering drug trafficker Ismael Higuera Guerrero, alias El Mayel, who headed the Arellano Felix band in the 3 March assassination of Alejandro Castaneda, commander of the Federal Judicial Police.

[Begin Valadez recording] The incidents we have pointed out have taken place within a context of violence ranging from the confrontation between drug traffickers at Cristine discotheque in Puerto Vallarta to the recent murder of the Tijuana public security director, Federico Benitez Lopez. [end recording]

Diego Valadez said that in this context, in the preliminary investigations initiated on 3 March, the authorities must determine if the late Benitez Lopez had information that could lead to the arrest of Ortiz Lara and other officials in other crimes such as possible participation in issuing credentials to well-known drug traffickers. As for reports on a possible link in this case to the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio, the attorney general of the republic said there is no evidence of that.

New Public Security Coordinator Outlines Goals

PA0505004394 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 27 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Elena Gallegos and Emilio Lomas]

[Text] At noon yesterday, making his first statements as National Public Security Coordinator, Arsenio Farell Cubillas said this new office has been created because emerging circumstances in the country make it necessary to strengthen the legal regime "essential for safeguarding public peace."

Farell met with the media in the Carranza Room of the Los Pinos presidential residence. He was accompanied by Attorney General Diego Valades and Federal District Prosecutor Humberto Benitez Trevino. Valades said the new office "is a noble project." Benitez commented this is an efficacious response to the people's rightful demand for security.

The coordinator discussed the need for citizens to cooperate with the authorities in preventing and fighting crime. He reiterated what was said Monday during the announcement of the creation of the new office, that it will establish avenues for communication with the Secretariats of Government and Defense, the Navy, the Federal District, and state governments in "working to safeguard public order." Farell said his office will try to forge links among security corps so that they become more effective in both preventive tasks and the fight against crime.

The coordinator said the most adequate course will be sought to determine the guidelines and actions that must be undertaken by offices directly or indirectly in charge of matters having a bearing on public security.

Referring to Valades and Benitez, who were at his side, Farell said both are "old friends who have told me they want to cooperate enthusiastically in this endeavor which will strengthen peace in Mexico."

Valades and Benitez spoke later, after being introduced by Jose Carreno Carlon, the director general of the Presidency's Public Relations Office. Valades said he will work enthusiastically on the mission the president assigned to Farell for the sake of the country's security. He noted: "As an aide to the president of the country, as a public official, a citizen, and an attorney, I am convinced of this project's worthiness and of the need for establishing efficient coordination mechanisms."

As Valades sees it, "no one better than an illustrious attorney, a distinguished public figure, an eminent teacher, and an outstanding Mexican could lead this coordination effort." He continued referring to Farell by noting: "He will have all my support and that of all officials in the Attorney General's Office."

Immediately thereafter, Federal District Attorney General Humberto Benitez Trevino spoke in more or less the same terms as Valades. He pledged to support Farell "so the people will have what they deserve and are demanding: more and better security."

Benitez Trevino said: "Our chief, President Salinas, has appointed Arsenio Farell, an exceptional Mexican, a man of law, an impeccable public servant, and an accredited university professor. He is the best guarantee that the inhabitants of the entire country will have the improved security which they are rightfully demanding."

Thus concluded the Public Security coordinator's brief presentation to the news media. Later, reporters received copies of the agreement whereby the new office was created, which was published yesterday in the DIARIO OFFIICAL DE LA FEDERACION [official gazette].

The agreement establishes that it will be the coordinator's duty to: coordinate national public security actions

established by the federal executive in accordance with applicable laws; establish mechanisms for the Attorney General's Office of the republic and the attorney general in the Federal District to adequately and efficiently fulfill their duties; and to propose pertinent measures and establish agreements with the state attorney generalships on national public security matters.

The presidential agreement also points out that the coordinator will propose and establish efficient and timely channels of communication between the aforementioned institutions to safeguard national public security; it will coordinate and follow up on the agreements that are reached by the National Security Cabinet, sending them to the president of the republic for consideration and to ensure their fulfillment. The coordinator will also carry out duties entrusted to him expressly by the federal executive.

Finally, the agreement establishes that federal administration departments and institutions will provide, in a timely manner, the coordinator with the information and support he may require to fulfill his duties.

New Public Security Director Takes Office

PA0505000394 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 3 May 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Victor Manuel Vasquez Fernandez took over today as new director of public security of Tijuana, replacing Federico Benitez, who was murdered last Thursday.

Salinas Vows To Defend Law, Accepts Rights Award

PA0505004594 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 3 May 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Today, the Mexican president said his government is duty-bound to guarantee that the law prevails. Democracy and law go together and cannot be separated, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said at Los Pinos presidential residence when he received the 1994 Norma Corona Sapiens Award, granted by the Association of Litigant Lawyers of Mexico for the Defense of Human Rights.

Salinas was decorated with the national award named after Norma Corona Sapiens, a lawyer from Sinaloa who defended human rights and who was murdered during her struggle against drug traffickers associated with policemen. As a result of her murder, President Salinas created the National Human Rights Commission, which he later incorporated into the Constitution.

[Begin Salinas recording] My government has assigned top priority to the defense of human rights under all circumstances and with all due authority. I have pledged to guarantee rule of law. [end recording]

Even though he admitted there is much more to be done, the president said Mexico's legal system is at the vanguard of this century.

[Begin Salinas recording] Fighting against criminal bands, particularly those of drug traffickers, is indispensable for guaranteeing the civilized coexistence of society. [end recording]

Maximo Carvajal, dean of the School of Law of the Autonomous University of Mexico, said the award was given to President Salinas for his work in defending human rights in Mexico.

El Salvador

Defense Minister Hails Joint U.S. Exercises

PA0405182994 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 94

[From the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Without disclosing how many Salvadoran troops will be involved in the U.S. Army exercises dubbed Fuertes Caminos II, [Defense Minister] General Humberto Corado confirmed that they will participate. The defense minister also said that a considerable amount of the mechanical equipment used in the military exercises, which begin this month, will remain in the country after the exercises conclude on 20 August. Nevertheless, said the ranking military officer, the importance of the exercises is the work experience that our troops will gain.

[Begin Corado recording] Certain pieces of equipment will remain in the country, and some will be kept by the U.S. Army because they are quite expensive and can be used for joint exercises in other Latin American countries. However, we will have gained experience from working with highly skilled military engineers. As you can see, the projects completed during the first phase are of very good quality. In my opinion, the most valuable part of this experience lies in the knowledge our soldiers will gain from working with U.S. engineers. [end recording]

Gen. Corado explained that the Army's new organic law will broadly reconcile the role of the Armed Forces with the spirit of the Constitution. He said the internal readjustment process is growing increasingly positive.

[Begin Corado recording] I have been informed that [words indistinct] have been sent to the Supreme Court of Justice. As I already told the president of the Republic, we will adhere to any court decision that opposes the continuation of these joint exercises between the U.S. Army and the Salvadoran Armed Forces. However, as long as a resolution to that end is not issued, we will continue the operation until 20 August when the second phase ends. [end recording]

The defense minister argued, among other things, that the unconstitutionality appeal filed last year with the Supreme Court of Justice, which opposes the presence of U.S. troops in the country, is not hindering the military exercises. Nevertheless, if the Supreme Court decision favors the appeal, the exercises will be suspended within the framework of respect for the Constitution. For the time being, however, the exercises in El Salvador will continue, Corado said.

FMLN Denies Pact With Government on Police

PA0405165594 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria said on Monday that the National Police [PN] will continue to function until the territorial and functional deployment of the PNC [National Civilian Police] is completed; the process, he said, could last into 1995.

According to the peace agreements, the PN must be dismantled by October. Nevertheless, Santamaria pointed out that a total demobilization may be delayed until December, depending on the PNC deployment process. He gave assurances that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] had agreed to this, but former guerrilla member Leonel Gonzalez denied the assertion.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] To extend the PN's existence is to lend institutional support to the crime problem.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there a pact between the government and FMLN to postpone the PN's demise, yes or no?

[Gonzalez] Such a pact does not exist. There is no pact. [end recording]

The FMLN leader said this matter is among the issues most widely debated by both sides, but no specific agreement has been reached thus far.

The FMLN does not intend to reschedule the PN's demobilization and is thus requesting that the PNC be deployed more rapidly.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] What we have agreed upon so far is that the deployment must conclude by September. By September, approximately 5,700 troops must be trained and deployed. The deployment must conclude at latest in September or October and the PN must disappear. [end recording]

Gonzalez said the PN issue will be discussed in depth with UN mediation because the government intends to transfer approximately 1,300 PN members to the PNC in addition to the quota established in the peace agreements.

Cristiani Reacts to Divisions Within FMLN Bloc

PA0505014794 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by Mario Jovel from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] The government has reacted promptly to differences within the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] legislative bloc. On Tuesday, President Alfredo Cristiani asserted that the differences among the various FMLN groups only confirm his prediction on the night of 24 April, when ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] celebrated its presidential victory.

President Cristiani believes the differences that have appeared among the FMLN deputies because of the election of Ana Guadalupe Martinez and German Cienfuegos as Legislative Assembly vice president and secretary, respectively, simply confirm the divisions that have always existed in this political party, as was pointed out by his government and ARENA a long time ago.

[Begin Cristiani recording] The FMLN is an association of five groups with ideological differences, which—and let us put it this way—got together to fight a war. Now that we no longer have a war and now that politics prevail, those differences have come out in the open. [end recording]

According to the president, the differences among the former guerrillas will increase in future debates at the Legislative Assembly, because there are different ideological positions within the FMLN.

Referring to the peace accords, Cristiani reiterated that the assignment of 5,700 PNC [National Civilian Police] policemen will conclude before October. He confirmed, however, the National Police's demobilization will take a bit longer.

[Begin Cristiani recording] A great deal depends, of course, on the Public Security Academy's graduations. We cannot go faster than the academy that graduates the policemen. We believe, however, that the transition period will have to be extended at least six months. [end recording]

Cristiani admitted that there has been no agreement with the FMLN to extend the National Police's demobilization. According to the president, this is because the front has refused to look for alternatives with the government and Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] so that Calderon Sol's administration will not encounter public security problems. If no agreements are reached this month, the president-elect will be the one to decide whether or not the total demobilization of the National Police will be extended.

Shafik Handal on Schism

PA0505014694 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 May 93

["Urgent" press release issued by FMLN General Coordinator Shafik Handal in San Salvador on 3 May; from the "KL Radio News" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] Regarding the events that have taken place at the first plenary session of the new Legislative Assembly, the general coordinator of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] informs the Salvadoran people and the general public worldwide that:

1. At several meetings, during which the Political Commission of the FMLN examined in detail the operational and organizational conditions of the new Legislative Assembly, the Political Commission unanimously agreed that the assembly's current internal organization imposes a presidentialist system [regimen presidencialista] that fails to proportionately reflect representation that characterizes this branch of state and that it obstructs the democratic fulfillment of parliamentary and legislative endeavors. For this reason, the commission agreed to seek a consensus with all political parties and their deputies to reform the internal organization and thereby democratize the Legislative Assembly, demanding, among other things, the formation of a board of directors that more accurately reflects the ratios achieve in the 20 March elections.

2. While we held these discussions, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] unexpectedly had the previous Legislative Assembly approve, at its final session on the evening on 29 April, a reform of the regulation that set the number of board members at 10 and granted a double vote to the assembly president—now a female president. ARENA has thereby seized a majority that the people did not grant the party by way of their votes. The reform states that under no circumstances can the opposition make decisions within the board of directors without the board's approval. This reform has worsened the assembly's presidentialist and antidemocratic nature.

3. This situation was exacerbated by the decision of ARENA and some of its allies to break away from the consensus achieved at Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] to reform the Constitution on those points recommended by the Truth Commission. The message was clear: ARENA has decided to exert its influence and turn its back on the commitments that emerged from the Chapultepec Agreement.

4. In response to this new situation, the Political Commission, expanded by the participation of elected FMLN deputies, decided by a majority vote not to participate in the Legislative Assembly's board of directors until its internal organization is reformed, and to announce that the FMLN will soon present a bill explaining this. In turn, the FMLN's Political Commission has abstained from approving any individual candidates or lists of candidates for positions within the Legislative Assembly Directorate.

5. Despite this situation, seven deputies from our legislative faction voted during the board elections at the 1 May plenary and two of them, Ana Guadalupe Martinez and Eduardo Sancho, accepted the posts of vice president and secretary, respectively.

6. Consequently, we must make it clear to all that these deputies do not represent the FMLN as a faction or the FMLN itself in the Legislative Assembly's board of directors, and that none of their actions, opinions, or commitments are binding with the FMLN. In this way, the FMLN's representation has been usurped with the support of the ARENA deputies' votes.

7. The general coordinator of the FMLN is discussing this problem to the party's rank-and-file and factions to enable the FMLN to make relevant decisions.

8. The FMLN will remain faithful to democratic revolutionary ideology, popular interests, programs of democratization, and social justice, as outlined in the Chapultepec agreement and the FMLN's Charter, goals, and programmatic platform, and it will redouble its efforts to achieve their fulfillment.

[Dated] San Salvador, 3 May 94

[Signed] Shafik Jorge Handal, general coordinator of the FMLN

Guatemala

Minister: Central America Waiting To Join NAFTA

PA0505032994 Guatemala City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 2 May 94 p 6

[Text] Foreign Minister Gladys Maritza Ruiz de Vielman has said that Guatemala is waiting for the United States to establish the criteria for it and the other Central American countries to join NAFTA, which also includes Mexico and Canada.

She said Guatemala could easily meet any prerequisites those countries might impose in order to participate in the trade bloc, considered one of the largest in the world. She said it is plausible that our country could be given "parity" treatment, even though the criteria for eligibility to receive this preferential treatment has not been established, because Guatemala meets the technical and quality prerequisites to expedite its inclusion into NAFTA.

"Last month I was in Washington, and I held some talks regarding this possibility, which is why I am optimistic and why I believe Guatemala will be among the first countries to receive parity," she said.

She explained this procedure meant receiving the benefits derived from NAFTA, but she clearly stated this is a unilateral step taken by the United States and not by the other NAFTA members.

Ruiz de Vielman said there was no deadline set to achieve "parity." Everything concerning this issue is subject to U.S. approval, although she emphasized that the U.S. authorities are "very sympathetic" toward Guatemala's case.

At any rate, she said, in the future any negotiation or petition regarding NAFTA must be conducted on a regional, not individual, level in order to guarantee a swift and firm reply to Central American proposals.

Nicaragua

Source Confirms General Ortega To Retire 21 Feb

PA0405201094 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 May 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by Jose Katin]

[Text] Army Chief General Humberto Ortega will leave the military ranks and hand over his command on 21 February 1995, a source close to the presidential palace confirmed to BARRICADA.

Gen. Ortega's retirement was agreed on yesterday during a "top-level closed-door meeting" held at the Olof Palme Convention Center under tight security. Attending the meeting were members of the Executive Branch, the National Assembly Blocs Assembly, and the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] General Staff.

Among those attending were Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, National Assembly Representatives Luis Humberto Guzman, Sergio Ramirez, Frank Duarte, and Ivan Salvador Madriz. Also present were Gen. Ortega and the EPS top command.

Our source told this newspaper that President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro will announce the decision on an unspecified date. It is believed this could be on 2 September, during the Army Day celebration.

One of the participants of the meeting told BARRICADA that the points the Executive Branch brought to the fore were related to the Military Organization Code, the deadline for Gen. Ortega's retirement, and the situation of terror that exists in the country's northern region. That highly reliable source said Gen. Ortega seemed at ease when talking of his departure, "which will take place on 21 February 1995."

President Chamorro will announce Gen. Ortega's retirement and the name of his replacement, once the National Assembly approves the Military Code. "Chamorro may make the announcement on 2 September during the Armed Forces anniversary, the source said. On that same date, President Chamorro announced Gen. Ortega would step down in 1994, prompting a violent reaction by the EPS, which was taken by surprise.

When asked by BARRICADA, Gen. Ortega said the topic of the Army had been discussed "very superficially" during the meeting, downplaying the importance of the matter. "These were general topics, first to work out final aspects of the law we have drafted and which will be in the Assembly in a few days. Second, we discussed the conflict in the north," the EPS chief stated. "The idea is to submit the bill for the consideration of the National Assembly so we can have a law based on a consensus between state branches within a sensible period of time," he added.

Deputies Roberto Urroz and Adolfo Jarquin of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement and Social Democratic Party, respectively, felt this is positive solution to the existing problem. When commenting on the matter, Urroz said a source of tension will be eliminated and "once Ortega's replacement is announced, he will be the one to take over the reigns of the EPS."

FSLN Economist Supports Compensation Bonds

94P20705C

[Editorial Report] Managua BARRICADA in Spanish of 19 April 1994 reports on page 10 Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) economist Alejandro Martinez Cuenca says in a commentary that compensation of former owners is the key to resolving the property issue. To this end, Martinez calls on the government "to act immediately to guarantee that more than 600-million cordobas paid out as bonds to former property owners retain their value." He suggests that the use of compensation bonds be expanded to include transactions taking place at state-owned banks, the customs office, and the income tax directorate. Bonds should also be used to complete the acquisition of shares for properties privatized by the National Corporation of the Public Sector begun in 1990. Martinez says that the government "should not delay taking action to guarantee the value of the compensation bonds."

Nontraditional Product Joins Exports

94P20705D

[Editorial Report] Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish of 19 April 1994 on page 4 reports that 800,000 pounds of chile tabasco peppers have been exported to the United States since the end of 1993. The peppers, which are grown in Nueva Guinea, El Tuma, and farms in the western zone are sold at 30 cents per pound. Growers receive financing from the Nicaraguan Investment Fund and the National Development Bank. Exporter David Robleto explains that the peppers require no special handling for export.

Land Titles To Be Issued

94P20705B

[Editorial Report] Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish of 13 April 1994 on page 10 reports that the National Institute for Agrarian Reform (INRA) is planning to issue land ownership titles for 27 farms totaling 6,545 manzanas in the departments of Granada, Carazo, Masaya, and Rivas. The entire area will be divided among 67 private producers and 52 cooperatives. The ownership titles will benefit 874 heads of families and over 3,000 people, according to the article.

The Netherlands Forgives $2 Million Debt

94P20705A

[Editorial Report] Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish of 15 April 1994 on page 16 reports that the Netherlands has forgiven $2 million of Nicaragua's $15-million debt. The Netherlands forgave more than half of Nicaragua's $38.5 million between 1991 and 1993. The article reports that the Netherlands will contribute $1.3 million to the environment and energy sector in support of a geothermal project which will reduce Nicaragua's dependence on oil. The two countries are negotiationg a $20-million geothermal project to be financed by the Netherlands, according to the article.

Germany Funds Agricultural Project

94P20705E

[Editorial Report] Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish of 19 April 1994 on page 4 reports that the Integral Rural Development Program sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) will convert farms and parcels of lands in Leon and Chinandega to more profitable units. The program, which will receive German Government financing, will introduce new crops, provide technical training and new technology, and will benefit 1,950 families in 10 municipalities. MAG Minister Rondon noted that the program aims to reduce malnutrition, poverty, and unemployment in the region. Nicaragua will reportedly contribute $2 million for the first phase of the program, planned for 1995, while the German Technical Cooperation agency will provide $3 million.

Panama

Perez Balladares Concludes Campaign

PA0505010294 Panama City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 2251 GMT 4 May 94

[Speech by Ernesto Perez Balladares, Panamanian presidential candidate of the United People alliance, marking the conclusion of his campaign for the 8 May presidential elections, at the Cinco de Mayo Plaza in Panama City—live]

[Text] Friends: I am very proud to be standing on this dais—the same spot where so many times I was at the side of our leader, Omar Torrijos Herrera. Viva Omar Torrijos! [applause]

Oh, how many happy memories bring back to me this Cinco de Mayo Plaza. I can recall the rally for what represented the culmination of our generational struggle—the Canal Treaties, as notorious people have labeled the treaties that we know as the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. [applause]

I want to tell the spirit of Torrijos, who is here with us, this: Those of us who picked up your flag are here; those who gave your Panamanian flag the kiss of dignity and those who will not rest until we have the free, independent, and sovereign country you dreamed of are here. [Crowd chants: "Toro, Toro, Toro"]

Friends: In 1990, we initiated a substantial reorganization of our political movement—the political movement

of Omar Torrijos. We have come a long way. We have brought our original concepts back to our party. We have regained the love and the affection of the Panamanian people. Now we solemnly swear never to betray the goals marked by Omar Torrijos Herrera.

The campaign has been one of proposals and decency. We have not and will not hurt any opponent. We will never hurt anyone. We have already forgiven those who have offended and insulted us. Let them not be worried: People who are united do not have time for foolish retributions. [applause]

We are going to be the best government the Republic has ever had, because we have a historic commitment and vision. We also have a commitment to the children and the young people of this country. We, for their sake, will create the best government in the history of the Republic. [Unidentified supporter shouts: "Viva Toro Balladares! Viva Panama! Viva Omar Torrijos!" Crowd responds: "Viva!"]

This will be a government with no hatred and no discord; a government that will not return to past models; a government in which all Panamanians will feel they have equal opportunities; a government under which there will be no first class, second class, or third class citizens; a government under which the children of all Panamanians—whether black, white, or Indian—will have equal opportunities. [Unidentified supporter shouts: "Viva the Panamanian women, the youth, the children!" Crowd chants: "Toro, Toro"]

We are going to have a government that will respect the rights of all groups; a government that will properly appreciate teachers, because they deserve not to be mistreated or despised; a government that will not use the tools of the transportation workers to harass them; and a government that will be committed to opening the doors of the 21st century the way we Panamanians want them open—through the efforts of the people and the government working together.

Recently, there was an incident in which a Public Force officer dressed as a civilian pulled out a weapon. We do not know what his intentions were. Today, while standing here, I want to tell Juan Bautista Zapata this: Regardless of your intentions, my family and I have already forgiven you. There is no problem. [applause; crowd chants: "Toro, Toro, Toro"]

Not only will we forgive him morally and spiritually, but I will also ask my party to withdraw whatever charges or lawsuit it filed against citizen Zapata. [Unidentified supporter shouts: "Long live Toro Balladares! Long live the PRD!"]

This is the type of government we will truly have: not a government of false pledges, hatred, or a return to the past, and not a government of old commitments. Instead, we will have a government that is looking to the future and committed to our children. We will advance toward this goal— all of us, united—because people who are united... [pauses] [crowd shouts: "Will never be defeated!"]

We will all go, together, and recover for these people their health, reopening health centers that have been closed; again stocking those health centers with medicine; providing dignified education for our sons and daughters; and building true homes instead of the dismal rooms—rooms that insulted the dignity of the people of Colon. Friends: In sum we will work together as a country to recover our Panamanian pride and dignity, which has been trampled on by this puppet government! [applause]

I also want to tell you that this is hardly a sample of the total number of votes the United People have decided to cast on Sunday. There is no doubt in any of the polls that we lead the next closest candidate not simply by 4, 5, or 6 percent, but by thousands of votes more than anyone else we will get! [Crowd shouts: "Long live United People!"]

Shortly after Sunday, shortly after Sunday [repeats himself] we will truly begin the real work—in other words, working on specific proposals with our elected community representatives, with our elected mayors, and with our elected legislators, all of whom will comprise a team that on 1 September will not have to sit down and carry out a survey at the provincial level, because we will already have it. We only have to implement the measures, solutions, and proposals that we already know of! [Unidentified supporter shouts: "You can feel it! You can feel it!" Crowd responds: "President Toro!"]

It is a young team and a team into which we want to invite, as my teacher Omar Torrijos did, all Panamanians, but most of all, those who have the greatest ability, without asking their surname or even taking into consideration their political affiliation, because this is what the homeland demands at the end of the 20th century.

Friends: I am aware of the capacity of our party's followers, and I know you will not be forgotten or cast aside. On the contrary, you must be our government's backbone, and you will be because you are the memory of Omar Torrijos Herrera. [crowd chants: "Toro, Toro, Toro"]

But in order to do all of this we must first get past Sunday, 8 May. I want you to accompany me and the vice presidents in spirit because at 0630 we will be in line to vote so no one gets the idea they can scuttle our decision. Our vote must be first; our vote must be early—one more early morning wake-up call for the sake of Torrijos and for Panama to overwhelmingly win. [applause]

I cannot fail to mention something very important: Our United People alliance comprises three parties. Regardless of your party affiliation, make sure your vote is an alliance vote from top to bottom. [applause]

Friends: On Sunday a new era for the Republic of Panama begins, and the end of the era of this century begins. Our commitment begins with those who will replace us on 1 September 1999, which we hope will be other Torrijos followers. They will find a united country, an independent, free, and sovereign country, with an outlook toward the future; a country which will work with its children for their children and grandchildren; and a country, my friends, where everyone without exception can feel proud and full of patriotism and may sing that stanza of the national anthem, which I invite you to sing along with me: We have at last reached victory in unity!

A united people will never be defeated. Many thanks, friends. Push ahead so that victory is ours.

Poll: Perez Balladares Leading Race

PA0405223494 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 4 May 94 p 10A

[Text] A CID/Gallup poll one week before the general elections reveals that at "the last minute" there has been a "dramatic change" favoring Ruben Blades, the Papa Egoro Movement's presidential candidate.

The CID/Gallup poll indicates that Blades would win the presidency in the event of a last-minute coalition between Christian Democratic Party candidate Eduardo Vallarino, Democratic Alliance candidate Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, and Change '94 candidate Ruben Carles.

If Carles were presented as the candidate of such a coalition, he would gain 22 percent of the votes, Blades 33 percent, and United People alliance candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares 30 percent.

If Moscoso de Gruber were the candidate of such a coalition, she would obtain 23 percent of the votes, Perez Balladares 30 percent, and Blades 32 percent.

If Vallarino were the presidential candidate, he would obtain 9 percent of the votes, the PRD's Perez Balladares would maintain his 30 percent, and Blades would get 38 percent.

This poll, prepared exclusively for EL PANAMA AMERICA by CID/Gallup, was taken between 24 and 29 April to determine the Panamanian people's political preferences in the upcoming 8 May elections.

For this poll, 1,200 citizens were interviewed in 60 different parts of the Panama City metropolitan area, Aguadulce, El Roble, Anton, El Valle, Portobelo, Baru, Dolega, San Lorenzo, Los Santos, Guarare, Atalaya, and other districts.

The poll reveals that most of people prefer Ernesto Perez Balladares and Ruben Blades; they obtained a 30 percent and 26 percent support rating, respectively.

Mireya Moscoso de Gruber obtained 17 percent, Ruben Carles 14 percent, Eduardo Vallarino 2 percent, Samuel Lewis Galindo 1 percent, and Jose Salvador Munoz 1 percent.

The poll highlights the fact that Ruben Blades' rating increased 14 points, but the Papa Egoro Movement candidate has relatively little support in the interior of the country.

CID/Gallup found that while Blades and Papa Egoro have improved their positions in the past 60 days, Perez Balladares is suffering a decline. Nevertheless, the latter continues to have the majority of support among Panamanians.

Of the people polled, the PRD registered a 26 percent support rating, Papa Egoro 21 percent, Arnulfist Party 14 percent, Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] 9 percent, Christian Democratic Party 3 percent, and Morena [National Renewal Movement] 3 percent, while 20 percent of those polled did not express a preference.

Other relevant findings in the poll show that nine out of every 10 Panamanians will vote and that a similar proportion are against a return of military personnel to power.

Some 87 percent of Panamanians "do not want any kind of alliance with military personnel to govern Panama in the future." Ernesto Perez Balladares, according to the CID/Gallup poll, is the candidate who would favor a new military force.

If one of the presidential candidates withdrew from the race, CID/Gallup determined that Blades would attract 50 percent of Perez Balladares' followers, 30 percent of those backing Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, 44 percent of the ones endorsing Eduardo Vallarino, and 31 percent of those who support Carles.

Carles would receive support of 34 percent of those who back Mireya Moscoso, 25 percent of Blades' followers, and 17 percent of Vallarino's backers.

Mireya Moscoso de Gruber would receive the support of 35 percent of Carles' supporters, 24 percent of those backing Samuel Lewis Galindo, 20 percent of the voters who support Vallarino, and 17 percent of the Papa Egoro supporters.

The poll revealed that 41 percent of the Panamanians polled believe unemployment is the main problem facing the nation. The issue is followed by corruption with 20 percent, and drug trafficking with 11 percent.

Guillermo Endara was viewed favorably in the CID/Gallup poll. Endara "is improving in the eyes of his people, and he has not been evaluated this favorably since March 1991," the polling firm observed.

The president improved 28 points in one month, and, according to CID/Gallup, the broadcast of the documentary on the civilist struggle "has a lot to do with the positive change in his favor."

Poll Views Regional Support

PA0405204994 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 May 94 pp 1A, 6A

[Article by Aristides Cajar Paez]

[Text] According to the latest poll conducted by the consulting firm of Dichter & Neira/Louis Harris, presidential candidates Ernesto Perez Balladares and Ruben Blades are in first and second place, respectively, in electoral preferences.

Presidential candidate Perez Balladares of the United People Alliance ticket, ranks first with 33.3 percent. According to the same poll, presidential candidate Blades of the Papa Egoro Movement trails Perez Balladares with 24 percent while candidate Mireya de Gruber of the Arnulfist Party ranks third with 17.3 percent. Meanwhile, presidential candidate Ruben Dario Carles of the Change '94 Alliance ticket dropped to fourth place with 16.8 percent of the electoral support.

Meanwhile, Mayin Correa, candidate for mayor of the municipality of Panama, obtained 44 percent of the electoral support among those polled in Panama City, followed by radio commentator Andres Vega Domplin with 26.7 percent, and first lady Ana Mae Diaz de Endara, who is in third place with 8 percent.

This poll was conducted with the methodology of simulated vote-casting [votacion simulada] applied to a random sample of 5,479 eligible voters chosen among the group that is most likely to vote nationwide. These subjects used ballots similar to the ones that will be used on the 8 May presidential and mayoral elections.

The nationwide poll was conducted by province between 30 April and 3 May 1994. In order to guarantee the accuracy of the information, a pilot poll was implemented on 29 April. This poll was carried out in the homes of persons who interviewed face to face with the pollsters, and had an estimated 3-percent margin of error.

In addition to electoral preferences for president, this poll measured people's sympathy toward candidates for mayor in the municipalities of Panama and San Miguelito, and the political parties nominating the various candidates for these positions.

Perez Balladares received the highest support rating in Panama Province—35.3 percent of those polled, and 31.1 percent in the rest of the country. Subjects ranging from ages 30 to 39 (36.3 percent) make up his support base.

Meanwhile, Blades received support from 28.5 percent of those polled in Panama Province vis-a-vis 19 percent in the rest of the country. The age group backing Blades' presidential candidacy is that made up of 18 through 29 year-olds (33 percent).

On 2 May, Blades concluded his electoral campaign with a concert staged outside the Rommel Fernandez Arena in Juan Diaz, while Perez Balladares will conclude his campaign today with a rally scheduled for this afternoon in the 5 May Plaza.

Mireya Gruber, who publicly expressed her dislike for electoral polls, will conclude her campaign activities on 6 May, which will be—according to Electoral Tribunal stipulations—the last day campaign activities will be allowed.

This is the last electoral poll LA PRENSA will publish on the current electoral process that will conclude on 8 May by virtue of Decree No. 40 issued by the Electoral Tribunal on 30 April.

According to Electoral Tribunal officials, Decree No. 40 bans, as of 5 May, the media from divulging election polls so as to prevent "the manipulation of the electorate."

If The Presidential Elections Were Held Today, Who Would You Vote For? (By Province)

Ernesto Perez B.—Total: 33.3 [percent]. Bocas del Toro—40.0; Cocle—30.1; Colon—31.4; Chiriqui—31.5; Darien—36.1; Herrera—22.0; Los Santos—35.0; Panama—35.3; Veraguas—29.7.

Ruben Blades—Total: 24. Bocas del Toro—14.9; Cocle—18.5; Colon—28.9; Chiriqui—17.8; Darien—9.8; Herrera—17.9; Los Santos—10.7; Panama—28.5; Veraguas—20.6.

Mireya Moscos Gruber—Total: 17.0. Bocas del Toro—25.6; Cocle—25.3; Colon—20.6; Chiriqui—18.3; Darien—26.3; Herrera—30.7; Los Santos—26.5; Panama—12.2; Veraguas—19.2.

Ruben D. Carles—Total: 16.8. Bocas del Toro—5.8; Cocle—19.8; Colon—14.3; Chiriqui—20.2; Darien—13.0; Herrera—14.7; Los Santos—22.2; Panama—16.0; Veraguas—19.1.

Eduardo Vallarino—Total: 2.4. Bocas del Toro—3.1; Cocle—0.3; Colon—1.6; Chiriqui—4.4; Darien—5.1; Herrera—2.3; Los Santos—1.1; Panama—1.6; Veraguas—7.3.

Samuel Lewis G.—Total: 1.5. Bocas del Toro—0.9; Cocle—2.1; Colon—1.4; Chiriqui—2.5; Darien—3.7; Herrera—2.8; Los Santos—1.6; Panama—1.0; Veraguas—1.8.

Jose S. Munoz—Total: 0.5. Bocas del Toro—0.8; Cocle—0.7; Colon—0.3; Chiriqui—0.3; Darien—0.0; Herrera—1.2; Los Santos—0.0; Panama—0.4; Veraguas—0.7.

Null votes: Total: 4.3. Bocas del Toro—8.9; Cocle—3.0; Colon—0.6; Chiriqui—4.7; Darien—6.1; Herrera—8.3; Los Santos—3.0; Panama—4.6; Veraguas—1.5.

Undecided—Total: 0.2. Bocas del Toro—0.0; Cocle—0.1; Colon—0.9; Chiriqui—0.2; Darien—0.0; Herrera—0.0; Los Santos—0.0; Panama—0.3; Veraguas—0.0.

Total—Total: 100. Bocas del Toro—100; Cocle—100; Colon—100; Chiriqui—100; Darien—100; Herrera—100; Los Santos—100; Panama—100; Veraguas—100.

Number of subjects in the sample—Total: 5,497. Bocas del Toro—297; Cocle—467; Colon—411; Chiriqui—757; Darien—131; Herrera—299; Los Santos—259; Panama—2,379; Veraguas—497.

Gunman at Perez Balladares Event Remains in Custody

PA0405215894 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 May 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[Text] A discharge will be requested for the National Maritime Service [SMN] policeman who was arrested for carrying a weapon and pulling it out of its holster during the United People [UP] alliance's musical event. Corporal Juan Bautista Zapata of the SMN is being held at the Homicide Division of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] and will be handed over to the Electoral Court.

The authorities are trying to determine Zapata's criminal accountability. He was arrested by police after he pulled out a gun during a UP musical event as UP presidential candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares was stepping down from a dais. Zapata said he drew his gun because he thought he was going to be attacked. To the police, this is a violation of the law.

[Begin PTJ Director Oswaldo Fernandez recording] The mere fact that he was attending a political event not in uniform constitutes a serious charge under our disciplinary regulations, but it will be up to his superiors to make any final decision. [end recording]

According to Major Santiago Fundora, director general of the National Air Service, Zapata not only faces a criminal investigation, but disciplinary sanctions as well.

[Begin Fundora recording] We are prohibited from attending political meetings and caravans. Therefore, regardless of whether his situation is clarified, he will be sanctioned with dismissal. He will be sanctioned with dismissal, because we cannot permit uniformed members to take part in one or another manner in political activities. [end recording]

UP presidential candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares canceled a series of electoral campaign activities scheduled for today as a security precaution in light of the incident that occurred yesterday on Balboa Avenue during the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] youth festival, when the SMN member was arrested with a gun. The PRD, whose presidential candidate is Perez Balladares, will close its electoral campaign tomorrow with an event at the 5 May Plaza.

Students Report Threats by Arnulfists

PA0405224694 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] University of Panama business administration students closed the Transisthmian Highway for one hour today causing traffic congestion on adjacent roads. The student leaders reported that Arnulfist Party members threatened them with firearms because they had blocked the road. From 1030 to 1145 [1530-1645 GMT] students closed the Transisthmian Highway to demand the inclusion of certain subjects in their curriculum.

[Begin unidentified student recording] We have taken to the street to protest a series of measures, the administration has taken against the students. Registration has been closed, there is no [words indistinct], we have no security at night, there are no lights, there is no air conditioning, and we need desks and classrooms. These are problems that the faculty is not resolving. [end recording]

The student leaders reported that three men and a woman in a green Mazda with license number 133088, displaying Arnulfista Party propaganda in support of Legislator Lucas Zarak, took out weapons and threatened the students if they did not allow them through.

[Begin unidentified student recording] Occupants of a car with propaganda flags and posters supporting Mr. Lucas Zarak of the Arnulfist Party pulled guns on us and told us they were going to go through anyway, and they threatened all of the students, even the girls. If it had not been for Public Force units, they would have fired their guns and wounded students. [end recording]

Several minutes later, Public Force units asked the students to end the roadblock, and after the university under secretary arrived, the students ended the roadblock.

Argentina

Menem Doubts U.S. Sanctions To Be Applied

PY0405234294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1549 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpt] Tandil, 4 May (NA)—In this city today President Carlos Menem presided over the ceremony commemorating the 12th anniversary of the Air Force's baptism by fire in the South Atlantic conflict, and once again harshly criticized "those who want to create a confrontation between the public and the Armed Forces."

In an impromptu news conference that he gave at the end of the ceremony, Menem emphasized that "certain interests" are trying to create a confrontation between the military and civilians.

He also insisted on stressing that "we have never had better relations with the United States" and said he believes that country will not apply sanctions if the pharmaceutical patents law is not approved.

In this respect he stressed that a measure of that kind "would not be suitable either for the United States or for Argentina."

In addition, the chief of state again criticized the mothers of Plaza de Mayo, saying: "I respect them about as much as they respect the president of the nation," and immediately asking: "Who is financing the many trips they make?"

Menem presided over the Air Force ceremony, which was held at the 6th Air Brigade based in this city, together with Army Chief of Staff General Martin Balza. [passage omitted]

Communique Hails Agreement Between Israel, PLO

PY0505003394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2109 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 May (NA)—The Argentine Government announced this afternoon that "it welcomes with deep satisfaction the agreement on Gaza and Jericho signed between Israel and the PLO in the city of Cairo on 4 May."

In an official communique released by the Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship, the government pointed out that "this new agreement—together with the one signed in Paris last 29 April—constitutes a major step forward toward the clear implementation of the historic agreements reached in the city of Washington on 13 September 1993."

The official communique concludes by stating that "the Argentine Government wishes to once again underscore the courage of the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who, with discretion, perseverance, and a spirit of conciliation, continue the process of peace in the Middle East."

Assembly Delegates Reject Immediate Reelection

PY0505033594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 May (NA)—The Buenos Aires delegates to the Constituent Assembly from the Radical Civic Union [UCR], Modin [Movement for Independence and Dignity], and the Grand Front (FG), today agreed "not to support the immediate reelection of the current Buenos Aires governor and vice governor, a decision which is meant, they said, to "comply with the responsibilities of their mandates." [quotation marks as received]

After the meeting among the leaders and delegates of the three political forces, which was held at UCR headquarters, they released a five-point document stating that the amendment of the Constitution "requires an effort by the political forces to attain a constitution that reflects the people's will as expressed on 10 April."

It also points out the need to "intensify democracy by strengthening the civic liberties, rights, and well-being of the inhabitants of Buenos Aires Province."

"In order to meet these objectives, we hereby request the support of all the political parties participating in the Constituent Assembly, and invite the Justicialist Party delegates to hold a joint meeting," the second point of the document states.

In addition it establishes that "in compliance with the electoral commitment assumed with the Buenos Aires public," the position of rejecting the possibility of reelecting the provincial governor will be maintained.

The FG, Modin, and UCR delegates also said that they "reject the introduction of any kind of subterfuge in the constitutional reform that seeks to alter the public's decision to oppose the immediate reelection of the current provincial governors."

Finally, the delegates maintained that the Constituent Assembly "must be carried out within a pluralistic framework that guarantees the openness of its decisions and of its expenses."

Grand Front, Socialist Unity To Cooperate on Reform

PY0505030994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1926 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 May (NA)—The Grand Front (FG) and the Socialist Unity (US) today agreed to create a Political Action Commission that will outline a program of cooperation and the election strategy for an eventual alliance, with an eye to the 1995 elections.

In addition, the leaders of the two coalitions decided that their members in the Constituent Assembly, which is to be held in the cities of Santa Fe and Parana, will work "together," and thus the two blocs will hold their first meeting in Congress on 6 April.

The resolutions were adopted during a meeting at FG headquarters between the FG and the US. Attending for the FG were: Fernando Solanas, Carlos Chacho Alvarez, Patricio Echegaray, Marcelo Vensentini, Carlos Auyero, Anibal Ibarra, and Mary Sanchez; and for the US: Norberto La Porta, Alfredo Bravo, Hector Bravo, Guillermo Estevez Boero, Ernesto Jaimovich, Mario Mazitelli, and Jose Seoane.

Cordoba Governor To Oversee Reorganization Committee

PY0405215094 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 May 94 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—With only two days to go before the key gathering that will decide their party's future, Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz announced after talks with Radical Chairman Raul Alfonsin yesterday that he will head a committee that will have the task of reorganizing the party following last month's defeat at the polls.

During the 45-minute meeting held at Alfonsin's Barrio Norter apartment, Angeloz—one of the few Radical leaders to win the April 10 Constituent Assembly elections in his province—confirmed that his delegates will attend Friday's National Committee meeting in Vicente Lopez. The body is scheduled to receive a final report from Alfonsin on the balloting, in which the Radicals trailed the ruling Justicialist Party by nearly 20 percentage points.

Alfonsin needs the support of the pro-Angeloz delegates at the plenary meeting to face off the opposition of the so-called Group of 44 Radicals, who oppose the constitutional reform pact signed by Alfonsin and President Carlos Menem and are expected to question Alfonsin's leadership.

One of the anti-reform camp leaders, Senator Fernando de la Rua, told Radio 9.90 that he was "waiting for a change in the party's leadership."

Commenting on the Angeloz-Alfonsin summit—originally scheduled to take place last week—the senator said: "The most important result of the talks is that the reorganization of the party was discussed."

Another anti-reform Radical, Deputy Federico Storani, told a local news agency that he was "optimistic" that the meeting "will unlock" the internal conflict.

Angeloz, in turn, said that Alfonsin will continue as Radical head until the end of the Constituent Assembly, which will open in Parana and Santa Fe on May 25.

The governor announced that he will head a committee of "political action" which will start a round of talks with all the party's internal sectors.

Angeloz also met yesterday with the heads of the Radical Lower and Upper House caucuses, Deputy Raul Galvan and Senator Jose Genoud, in what is seen as the start of an attempt to resolve the party's internal crisis.

Angeloz admitted that he had a difficult task ahead and announced that he will remain in the Federal Capital to continue talks "to united and strengthen the party."

De la Rua meanwhile confirmed that he still hoped to be the party's presidential candidate in 1995. But he underlined that "it is not time yet to formally launch the candidacy."

In related news, the Radical Party Youth yesterday issued a statement demanding the resignation of the National Committee led by Alfonsin and holding it responsible for the April 10 defeat.

Army Commander Balza Receives Death Threats

PY0505023294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2235 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 4 May (NA)—The family of Army Commander Lieutenant General Martin Balza has received death threats in an anonymous message that demands that the death of conscript Omar Carrasco not be investigated, as "the Neuquen case is closed."

Pablo Balza, 23, son of the general, today found on the windshield of his car a typewritten note in which his father is threatened with death and which contained details about the family life of the general's children. [passage omitted]

Military sources state that this is not the first time that Gen. Balza and his family have received death threats.

Bolivia

Presence of Colombian Cartels Threatens Ecosystems

PY0505031494 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 29 Apr 94 p 13

[Text] ANF—At an international antinarcotics conference that has been under way in Quito, Ecuador, since last week, Social Defense Secretary Mario Soliz said the Colombian cartels, and mainly the Cali cartel, are establishing themselves in Bolivia to produce cocaine on a large scale.

"We could be facing the imminent and increasing transfer of foreign criminal drug organizations to Bolivia," said Soliz, in a speech before the 12th International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC).

He said the drug trafficking organizations, and especially those from Colombia, are able to subjugate the most important indigenous organizations in gaining control over the entire drug circuit, from producing coca to cocaine paste, refined cocaine, and the export and marketing of pure cocaine.

He added: "The Colombian drug rings hope to establish their own supply system for the chemicals they need, as it is known that they want to complete the circuit by refining their own production."

Soliz said that to estimate the presence of illegal chemicals in Bolivian territory "is a frightening exercise, as the huge border regions shared with our neighbors are the natural habitat for unique species of animals and plants, with rivers full of an impressive variety of fish, and with fertile land suitable for all manner of cultivation."

Soliz added: "This entire habitat where ancient ethnic groups live, forming a natural ecosystem, alive and without contamination, is now in danger due to the voracity of drug traffickers and their suppliers of chemicals."

Brazil

People's Socialist Party To Support Lula

PY0405190894 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 May 94 p 1-7

[Article by Paulo Peixoto]

[Excerpt] The PPS [People's Socialist Party] yesterday decided to support the candidacy of PT [Workers Party] leader Luis Inacio Lula da Silva.

The party made the decision during a convention held over the weekend in Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais).

The convention was attended by 74 of the 117 delegates with the right to vote. Of the 74, 69 voted in favor of the alliance.

There were four votes against, while one delegate abstained (he did not vote either for or against).

PPS Secretary General Francisco Almeida, 54, said the party will work to expand the front that supports Lula and "progressive parties."

The PPS does not want the campaign and Lula's program of government to become radical.

"We want a broad debate on the program. We will begin with the PT program, but it must be open to change, because new sectors should join in for the run-off election," he said.

The PPS will deliver its proposals to the PT in 15 days.

Of the PT factions, the PPS supports the one led by Sao Paulo Deputy Jose Genoino.

Almeida has said that the differences between the PPS and the PT "are not insurmountable." [passage omitted]

Palmeira Chosen as Cardoso's Running Mate

PY0405123894 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] After lengthy internal meetings and conversations, the PFL [Liberal Front Party] has designated Alagoas Senator Guilherme Palmeira as Fernando Henrique Cardoso's running mate for the presidential elections of 3 October.

The PFL also considered the designation of Senator Marco Maciel, but he declined.

The PFL informed Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso of the designation during a lunch. Cardoso was satisfied with the designation. He said:

[Begin Cardoso recording] It is a good choice because we need someone from the northeastern region, with political experience, with well-known positions, and who will be accepted by the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]. Guilherme Palmeira meets these requirements. In addition, he can help us a lot because he is a factor for unity within the PFL, and this is important for the electoral contest in the northeastern region. [end recording]

The PSDB is scheduled to hold its convention on 14 May in Contagem, Minas Gerais. The convention will formalize Senator Cardoso's designation as presidential candidate.

Weapons Industry Sales, Expansion Viewed

PY0405141894 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 May 94 p B6

[Article by Edilson Coelho]

[Text] The principal national weapons manufacturers are looking abroad for an alternative to their low domestic sales. The main Brazilian arms industries—CBC [Brazilian Ammunition Company], Taurus, Rossi, Boito, Urco, and Imbel [War Materiel Industry]—which are currently earning $300 million annually, export about 75 percent of their production. CBC, which belongs to the Arbi and Imbel groups, is investing $2.7 million in a publicity campaign to promote its Pump CBC 12 shotgun. CBC expects to sell 9,000 of the shotguns this year, at a price between $400 and $800 each.

Domestic sales amount to nearly 220,000 units per year. Taurus and Rossi from Rio Grande do Sul sell mainly handguns and revolvers. They account for nearly 90 percent of legal arms sales. CBC believes it may double its domestic sales this year. The publicity campaign, which began in March and which will last until December, with striking adds that explain the product, is part of the sales support strategy. Distribution is the strong point of CBC. "We deliver our product within five days," says Operations Manager Marco Aurelio Salvany. CBC sells its products through 500 stores.

CBC turned to the domestic market after a restructuring process which combined productivity and a dollar price reduction of up to 54 percent. "We will expand domestically, taking advantage of our increased production capability," Salvany said.

CBC has invested $1.8 million in machinery, equipment, and new processes. CBC will invest $10 million in 1994 and 1995 to increase its ammunition production.

CBC is considered the largest Brazilian ammunition manufacturer with a production of 221 million cartridges in 1992. It also produced a total 32,000 units of the Pump CBC 12. CBC sells ammunition in the United States under the trademark Magtech. It expects to manufacture 90,000 units this year, only 10 percent of which will remain in Brazil.

With the recession at the beginning of the 1990's, other national manufacturers targeted the international market. As a result of large export operations—mainly to the United States—Taurus opened the Taurus International Manufacturing subsidiary which is responsible for 52 percent of its $51.2 million sales last year. It produced 400,000 handguns and revolvers. Taurus is the third most popular handgun in the United States.

For Rossi, which was founded 105 years ago, selling abroad was a way to survive. Rossi's .38-caliber 5-shot revolver—the main competitor for Taurus in revolvers—is the company's best-selling product. It accounts for $30 million worth of annual sales. In 1989 Rossi adopted a Total Quality Program to improve productivity and to compete with the United States and Canada where it must compete with the famous Colt, Rugger, and Smith and Wesson revolvers.

"When the recession hit the United States we had good quality and the best market prices," says Rossi Sales Manager Paulo Schilling. He said that 60 percent of Rossi's production is exported.

The Boito company, a small hunting weapon manufacturer, is based in Veranopolis, Rio Grande do Sul. It has annual sales of $12 million and is also engaged in exports. Following the philosophy of its founder, Elias Ruas Amantino, the company has never produced the personal security weapons that could increase its sales in Brazil and in the countries to where it sends 95 percent of its production. "We know we are losing an opportunity to make money, but we respect the principle established by our founder," says Commercial Manager Manoel Ruas Amantino.

CBC was founded in 1926 by the Matarazzo family to produce bullets for hunting weapons. The company currently belongs to the Arbi and Imbel groups. It is investing $10 million to transform itself into one of the most modern ammunition manufacturers in the world. With the purchase of new, totally automated equipment from Germany, Italy, and Belgium, CBC will soon be producing four cartridges per second.

"We will be able to modify our production at any moment without quality loss," says Operations Manager Marco Aurelio Salvany. Installed in Maua, greater Sao Paulo, the company manufactures from .22-caliber ammunition to projectiles for FAB [Brazilian Air Force] fighters. Of the $100 million CBC plans to earn this year, 88 percent will come from cartridge sales.

Beside the modernization project—quality control will be computerized—the CBC is linking its network of distributors. "The sales team will work on cellular telephone-linked notebooks [preceding word given in English]," Salvany says. Orders will be logged in the central CBC computer so as to inform the production line. "The saving of time is essential for competitiveness," he says. The idea is to deliver orders within 24 hours.

Having conquered the Brazilian market, CBC intends to do the same abroad, where it has 45 distributors selling in 65 countries. "We want to be among the main weapon and ammunition manufacturers in the world," Salvany said.

Report on the weapons market in 1993
Sales: $300 million
Weapons sold: 225,000 units in Brazil and 775,000 units abroad.
Regional participation in sales: Southeast (44 percent); South (16 percent); Center West (15 percent); Northeast (20 percent); and North (5 percent).
Ammunition sales in Brazil: 97.9 million cartridges.
Ammunition exports: 114 million cartridges.
Companies: CBC (Sao Paulo); Rossi (Rio Grande do Sul); Taurus (Rio Grande do Sul); Boito (Rio Grande do Sul); Urco (Sao Paulo); and Imbel (Sao Paulo).
Jobs: 10,000 direct and indirect jobs
Most sold model: .38-caliber five-shot revolver (price: $250)
Investment to increase production: $10 million this year in CBC.

Seminar Participants Debate Military Research

PY0505003694 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 3 May 94 p 3

[Report by Lidia Reboucas in Sao Paulo]

[Text] Military research was one of the most controversial topics discussed at the International Seminar on the Evaluation of and Proposals for Scientific and Technological Development in Brazil, which was held in Sao Paulo. The seminar focused on new courses for scientific and technological development in Brazil.

Controversies erupted over maintaining a model inherited from the military period (which envisaged the creation of a large military power through a scientific and technological effort undertaken by the Armed Forces) and over discontinuing military-oriented projects.

Among the ongoing military projects that are worth mentioning are the AMX aircraft, the Brazilian Space

Mission project (which totals $1.1 billion), and a nuclear-powered submarine project ($900 million).

Geraldo Lesbat Cagnari Filho, director of the Group of Strategic Studies at Campinas State University [Unicamp], said: "These projects will provide the Brazilian military industry with great technological capability, and it will thus gain international standing."

This opinion is not, however, shared by some researchers, who find it necessary to make a comprehensive review of the benefits yielded by these military projects.

One who advocates this idea is Renato Peixoto Dagnino, of the technological department at the Unicamp Geoscience Institute, who believes that "the only benefits these projects will yield are academic ones, and not technological nor military."

The search for new sources of financing that are not closely linked to the government, and cooperation between the private sector and Brazilian universities in undertaking joint scientific and technological research, were also among the main topics discussed at the seminar.

Helio Barros, planning secretary at the Science and Technology Ministry, said: "The Brazilian Government is not planning to increase funds allocated for science and technology, which this year will stand at $900 million."

He added that this is happening because "the country's budget system does not envisage specific investments in this area, and thus the budgeted funds are not earmarked for any specific project." In the past two years only 40 percent of the approved budget has been disbursed.

Chile

Finance Minister Briefs Frei on Talks With Kantor

PY0405230794 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] After returning from the United States, Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat said today that Chile hopes to sign a free trade agreement with the United States by March 1995.

This comment was made by Aninat after meeting with President Eduardo Frei at La Moneda at noon today. Aninat, who arrived back in Chile early this morning, met with President Frei to brief him on the results of his trip. In Washington Aninat met with U.S. Trade Representative Michael Kantor, and the two agreed to start preliminary negotiations on 25 May, prior to beginning formal negotiations on a free trade agreement.

[Begin Aninat recording] We will not sign just any pact. We will sign a pact that is very rational, very coherent, in line with our economic policy, and suitable for Chile. In addition, before signing a pact we would discuss it with the political parties and, of course, with Congress. [end recording]

Aninat said that Chile has not yet decided whether to negotiate a bilateral agreement with the United States or to join NAFTA, which is also made up of Mexico and Canada. The importance of a free trade agreement with the United States lies in the fact that one-third of Chile's international trade is currently with the United States.

Agreement With Mercosur Bloc Under Preparation

PY0405231894 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa said today that Chile is putting the finishing touches on an agreement to link up with the Common Market of the South, Mercosur.

Figueroa explained that Mercosur is seen by the great powers and by international investors as one of the most interesting centers for investment. Mercosur includes the two largest South American countries, Argentina and Brazil, which are Chile's main trade partners.

[Begin Figueroa recording] In all of the bilateral meetings between the Mercosur country presidents and then President Patricio Aylwin, and now with President Eduardo Frei, the Mercosur countries' interest in having Chile become a member has been very clear. [end recording]

Figueroa said that the decision regarding Mercosur cannot be delayed. He explained, however, that Chile cannot join Mercosur as a member due to the high tariff rate of that common market. This is why, he said, the Foreign Ministry is preparing a formula to reach an agreement with Mercosur as a whole.

Official Confirms Stange's Extension of Leave

PY0405211094 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The controversy on whether Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange will resume his post continues. Stange's lawyer has stated that the high-ranking officer has not requested leave, yet the defense minister has said he has already approved it.

Gen. Stange began his vacations on 8 April. His vacations end on 16 May. Stange's lawyer, Pablo Rodriguez, has said that Stange has not requested an extension. He added that the acting Carabineros director has submitted a written communication to the defense minister which states that Stange was to have taken two months leave if a military judge was appointed to investigate charges on military negligence. He said:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] As this is not the case, Gen. Stange will not submit any leave request. A request is uncalled for in compliance with Gen. Stange's original position. If a civilian judge is appointed to investigate

the case, there is no legal, constitutional, moral, or ethical obstacles to prevent him from resuming his post. [end recording]

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, however, said that Gen. Stange will not resume his post before July.

[Begin recording] [Rojas in progress]... This is the situation right now. His vacation expires on 17 May and from then on, he will start a 60-day leave permit that can be reduced or extended.

[Unidentified reporter] You have to authorize it.

[Rojas] I have already authorized it. He has requested leave and I have already authorized it. [end recording]

Frei Appoints New Supreme Court Justice

PY0405120094 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Recently appointed Supreme Court Justice Eleodoro Ortiz has voiced his opposition to a possible law on divorce.

The new justice was a member of the Court of Appeals in Concepcion. President Eduardo Frei telephoned Judge Ortiz to tell him of his appointment as Supreme Court justice. Judge Eleodoro Ortiz has been on the bench since 1969, when he was nominated as appellate judge in Concepcion under President Eduardo Frei Montalva.

He believes the streamlining of judicial processes merits urgent consideration and that judges should be vested with the power of expeditiously passing sentence in less serious crimes. He believes the jurisdiction of military justice ought to be restricted and that the best guarantee for human rights is to facilitate access to the law by the widest sectors. With regard to a possible law on divorce, he categorically asserted:

[Begin Ortiz recording] The current system has come under fire because nullity suits are said to be a farce. Nothing will prevent this very farce from continuing unabated with the passing of a law on divorce. [end recording]

The new Supreme Court justice declined to comment on the mushrooming of schools of law in the country.

Colombia

Rebels Occupy Giraldo Municipality

PA0405130494 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by Luis Alberto Mogollon; from "Caracol's 0600-0900" newscast]

[Text] Roads remain blocked in Giraldo Municipality, western Antioquia Department, not allowing Army troops to reinforce the police command that is currently fighting with the guerrillas. A Giraldo Municipality official told Caracol the following:

[Begin unidentified municipality official recording] We cannot leave our homes. It all began after midnight, at 0030. We cannot see clearly; we cannot step outside the door but we can see through the windows and through the crack in the door that the main square and the streets are full of guerrillas. We are sure that the highway junction, the road between (Manglara) and Uraba is blocked. [Words indistinct] at the command and the police have been unable to leave. The guerrillas are gathered at the entrance into town. [end recording]

The Antioquia Department Government will analyze the public order situation at a Security Council meeting this morning.

Prosecutor De Greiff Declares Drug War 'Failure'

PA0405191794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] The prosecutor general of the nation sparked a new controversy when he said that the war on drug trafficking is a failure. He is now confronting the Drug Police, and he has his own figures and balance. With the following figures Prosecutor General Gustavo De Greiff summarized, point by point, his own balance.

[Begin De Greiff recording] Marijuana consumption has skyrocketed, while cocaine and heroin consumption has suddenly increased. What kind of success is this? Not even 10 percent of the drugs that reach the markets or are even meant to reach the international markets are seized. What kind of success is this?

The public force in Colombia killed Mr. Rodriguez Gacha, killed Mr. Pablo Escobar, extradited Mr. Ledher, imprisoned several drug traffickers. None of these events, however, has led to any variations in the illegal drug market. What kind of success is this? [end recording]

Once again, De Greiff has used these figures to support his proposal for studying the legalization of drugs in Colombia.

[Begin De Greiff recording] I am not becoming an advocate for the legalization of drugs. Nonetheless, I believe it is a weapon that will destroy the wealth of drug traffickers. [end recording]

Predicting the United States will probably unleash a storm against him as a result of these statements, De Greiff warned that he is ill.

[Begin De Greiff recording] I have a strange disease in my spine that does not allow me to bend before those who are powerful. [end recording]

Narcotics Chief Refutes De Greiff's Assessment

PA0405193394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "National Newscast"; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Point by point, the authorities involved in the drug fight refuted the prosecutor general's assessments.

[Colonel Jose Antonio Gallego, chief of the Narcotics Division] "I personally and professionally respect all observations made by the prosecutor general, but I cannot share that statement because it is very obvious that following the death of Gonzalo Rodiguez Gacha and Pablo Escobar, drug trafficking in Colombia was completely reduced to zero by the national government."

As for the increase in the amount of cultivated areas:

[Gallego] "That is not completely true because, as regards coca plantations, we have seen an increase since last year that is not more than 5 or 7 percent. The same is not true for marijuana or poppy plantations."

As for the small number of drug and money confiscations:

[Gallego] "We can say that we have confiscated plenty of drugs of different types in the country."

As for the small number of drug traffickers in jail:

[Gallego] "The National Police, alone, in the first four months of 1994, have arrested 450 Colombians and 42 foreigners involved in the trafficking of drugs."

As for the increase in drug consumption:

[Gallego] "An increase in consumption is relative. If it is indeed happening, it should not be in significant numbers because indicators show that, at this time, there is less availability of the substance than in previous years."

Senate Condemns U.S. Meddling, Supports De Greiff

PA0405225294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2104 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 4 May (NOTIMEX)—Today, the Colombian Senate strongly condemned what it views as U.S. meddling in Colombia's judicial system. During a debate that lasted several hours, the legislative branch closed ranks around Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff, whom the U.S. State Department has accused of acting independently in the Colombian Government's struggle against the mafia.

Senator Fernando Mendoza said the country to the north "has no moral basis for criticizing the Colombian authorities." He noted: "In Colombia, people die from drug traffickers' bullets, while in the United States people die as a result of overdose."

Senate President Jorge Ramon Elias criticized the position of Colombian Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez for maintaining a weak stand in the face of criticism from U.S. congressmen and U.S. officials in Colombia. Gonzalez, promoter of a bill calling for stronger penalties against the mafia, admitted that "the nation's sovereignty is being threatened not only by foreign pressure, which we must reject strongly and with dignity, but also by crime."

During the debate at the Senate session to which De Greiff was summoned, the senators discussed an eventual modification of the Criminal Procedure Code and, especially, the possibility of toughening sentences handed down on confessed drug-traffickers who surrender to authorities.

Liberal Party Senator Humberto Pelaez said the executive branch's proposal to reform penal legislation "is the result of U.S. pressure." Senator Maria Izquierdo, of the same party, cautioned that Congress will not make changes to this law.

The Criminal Procedure Code grants significant sentence reductions to drug traffickers who surrender to authorities, confess to at least one crime, and collaborate in the arrest of other criminals. The code also envisages releasing prisoners who spend six months in prison without being brought before a court.

Last Sunday, President Gaviria decreed, for the third time in the past two years, a state of internal disturbance, which enables him to issue or void public order decrees to prevent the release of more than 800 inmates, most of whom are accused of drug trafficking or terrorism.

According to U.S. congressmen and other U.S. officials, De Greiff has adopted a "weak" position in his negotiations on sentencing Cali Cartel and Medellin Cartel bosses.

De Greiff has denied the charges and reiterated: "I am not scared of a foreign power or pressure from organized crime." The prosecutor general quipped at the Senate's full session: "I suffer from a strange spinal disease that prevents me from bending down in front of the powerful."

Ecuador

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA0305212294

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored through 3 May.

The National Institute of Statistics and Census (Inec) has reported prices rose this year by 3 percent in April, while in March they rose 2.64 percent. Inec added prices rose 3.6 percent in April 1993. (Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 May 94)

On 1 May, Agriculture Minister Mariano Gonzalez reported Ecuadoran banana exports surpassed 1 million tons in the first 4 months of this year, which represents a record figure. The minister added that foreign currency revenue between 1 January and 15 April amounted to more than $123 million and that 54 percent of the sales went to the countries of the European Union. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2305 GMT 1 May 94)

Paraguay

Wasmosy Returns From Brazil, Views Strike

PY0405190594 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] As soon as he returned from Uberaba, Brazil, President Juan Carlos Wasmosy met with his ministers to evaluate the 2 May workers strike.

[Begin Wasmosy recording, in progress] ...all the information to be able to make a general evaluation.

[Unidentified reporter] What can you tell us about the killing?

[Wasmosy] I very much regret it. It is the tragic note of the day.

[Reporter] Many people hold your government responsible for it.

[Wasmosy] I am sure of it. I am held responsible for everything that occurs in the streets, but I can assure you that all appropriate investigations are under way and everything will be placed in the hands of the courts. The courts will decide and we will respect their decision.

[Reporter] Does the government still maintain what it said yesterday when it characterized the strike as a failure?

[Wasmosy] I would like to be a little above those comments. I think this will teach us to be a bit more mature. I never shut the doors to dialogue. I have always been open to dialogue. I will continue to wait for them to approach us. This is the best way to reach an agreement. You are all aware of the results of force.

[Reporter] Will the government convene a new meeting with workers to negotiate?

[Wasmosy] Of course. The government has repeatedly made that call. The negotiating table is open.

[Reporter] Do you think the result of the strike was negative?

[Wasmosy] You have already commented on the strike enough through the press. [end recording]

Editorial Comments on General Strike

PY0405125794 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 May 94 p 22

[Editorial: "Who Pulled the Trigger?"]

[Text] The general strike that paralyzed the country yesterday tested the mechanisms for coexistence that the entire Paraguayan people want and yearn for. An event that should have gone unnoticed—because it is an unavoidable part of the political and legal system—took on a tragic significance with the death of a young peasant and the unprovoked aggression against various journalists, including four Private Communication Network reporters.

One fact that encourages us to meditate was clearly visible at the end of the demonstration yesterday: Paraguayan democracy needs to mature. Intemperance, authoritarianism, arrogance, and resentment is still a very heavy burden on many fellow Paraguayans' minds. It requires only a spark, or the slightest encouragement, for these negative feelings to erupt in the most irrational way imaginable.

That is what happened yesterday with the consequences we must all regret today. We have said in this column that the strike was a right established by law and a legitimate weapon for union struggle. We have also said that the exercise of that right should never mean infringement on other people's right to go to their work places. Traffic interruption and the attacks against bus drivers are, without doubt, acts that we cannot in any way approve.

We also believe that the attack against journalists was totally unjustified. We must make here a basic analysis: If only one journalist had been injured we could have accepted it—in a preliminary way—as an unfortunate accident, something that could occur anywhere in the world. But we had several attacks and must, therefore, conclude that the incident was more serious, that journalists were seen as necessary targets of physical aggression for their responsibility in the events.

We cannot forget that for months the government has been formulating the odd accusation that it is the press which invents the problems. The president of the Republic has made this accusation on several occasions in the angry tone that has become part of his communication style.

And what is even worse, during a meeting between the president and political leaders at government palace we heard threats in a tone that Paraguayans are no longer used to hearing and which seemed taken from the last months of 1988. What was most serious was the fact that the president, forgetting his position as president, accompanied those threats in general terms against all those who use their legitimate right to dissent against the government.

If the president forgets that he is, first, the president of all Paraguayans and becomes incomprehensibly intemperate, it will be very difficult to expect common sense and rationality from modest police agents who receive orders from their superiors. Their reaction is no accident, but a true response to the message they heard at the highest levels.

We cannot expect too much from those who must stand in the front line if those responsible for governing the country single out the press as being responsible for all wrong doings and then, when the social conflict explodes, travel to a cattle fair abroad. They only act within the context of the ideas and opinions being aired at the highest levels. So we must ask: Who, in fact, pulled the trigger?

Commentary Views General Oviedo's Court Victory

PY0405124194 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 May 94 p 12

[Commentary by Edwin Britez: "The Last Hope Dissolved"]

[Text] Judge Jose Agustin Fernandez' decision to dismiss charges against General Lino Cesar Oviedo for his alleged violation of the Electoral Code reminds us of the kind of country in which we live. From time to time it is necessary to come to earth and look at ourselves in a mirror so as not to forget that despite the passage of time we continue to live in a country that has not changed.

Perhaps this is Judge Jose Agustin Fernandez's only merit, if we need to find a positive side to the decision. Or perhaps it is Electoral Prosecutor Carlos Aranda Daroczi's merit to remind us the kind of country in which we live because instead of formally filing charges against Oviedo he simply handed the file on the alleged crime to the judge.

The fact is that Army Commander Gen. Lino Cesar Oviedo is free to continue participating in politics for as long as he chooses. Neither his natural Armed Forces commanders nor the law or ordinary justice can stop him. The truth is that the judge was the last hope.

Of course, we could not expect the present Armed Forces commander in chief [President Juan Carlos Wasmosy], for whose candidacy Oviedo worked without pause during the electoral campaign, to order his retirement for breaking a law. Neither could we expect Gen. Oviedo to get scared and request his retirement because of Rambo [Hermes Rafael] Saguier's protests or the reports presented by [Liberal Party leaders] Domingo Laino or Bogado Gondra.

We would offend the intelligence of Gen. Oviedo if we thought he would authorize an eventual entry of U.S. troops into the country at a time there was a possibility of retiring him and when the only ones who could control him were those in "Strong Roads 94-South."

Now that we can no longer object to the Army commander on political, legal, and least of all military grounds, we must sit down and mentally design policies for the 1993-98 period, with a military leader as the central axis of the transition to democracy.

Our reality for the next four years, even though it might hurt to admit it, will be one of a civilian government under Armed Forces tutelage. The country's rudder will be operated from the barracks for as long as the state apparatus continues as it is today. That is why there is resistance to reforming the state, the privatization program, judicial branch changes, and the appointment of independent-minded officials.

The current situation favors the unofficial handling of public affairs because institutions operate based on political loyalties and because these political loyalties are nothing else than blind obedience to the individual in command, never fearing the law, and least of all support for reasonable government.

Prosecutor Carlos Aranda discovered a single possible electoral crime in the files. He handed the judge the evidence of an act at the Interior Ministry involving Oviedo and the then-Colorado Party presidential hopeful Juan Carlos Wasmosy and his running mate Angel Roberto Seifart. During this act, Oviedo said the ANR [National Republican Association-Colorado Party] and the Armed Forces would rule for ever.

Let us remind ourselves of some data from the archives regarding military interference in politics, just to make the prosecutor and the judge blush before their friends:

- "Laymen Club charges that the military are interfering in politics." (ABC COLOR 6 Jul 92)
- Former President Gen. Andres Rodrigues votes in the internal elections of the Colorado Party. Gen. Oviedo justifies military men voting in the internal elections of the Colorado Party. (ABC COLOR 14 Aug 93)
- Current Colorado Party President Eugenio Sanabria Cantero reveals that the ANR consulted Gen. Rodriguez, who in turn consulted the Armed Forces about the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket. (ABC COLOR 7 Sep 92)
- "Former Colorado Party Presidential candidate Luis Maria Argana urges his fellow party members not to be afraid of the military men currently in power." (ABC COLOR 25 Oct 92)
- "Frutos [not further identified] criticizes the generals who support the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket." He mentions Generals Oviedo, Marino Gonzalez, and Rodriguez. (ABC COLOR 21 Nov 92)
- "Lino Oviedo again meddles in politics in Fuerte Olimpo. Military man participated in a political rally organized by Wasmosy and Seifart." (ABC COLOR 5 Dec 92)
- "Colorado Party internal elections. Oviedo gives his opinion before polling concludes. 'The people can lump it if they have the desire to return to the past,' he said referring to Argana after announcing that he had

voted for the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket." (ABC COLOR 28 Dec 92)
- "The military men who participated in the ANR rally may be punished." (ABC COLOR 5 Feb 93)

Finally, after ANR's victory was made known on election day, Oviedo, who was still euphoric, stated that his remarks at the Interior Ministry during the election campaign were not made to "lift the spirit and courage of the Colorados, because his voice and vote respond to only one person."

The last hope of a military caudillo who would bow before the law has now vanished with Judge Jose Agustin Fernandez' decision. We must now resign ourselves to putting up with a military chief as the focal point of the transition to democracy in the 1993-98 period, and at the same time observe how the pieces are moved in a plan that contemplates the immobility of the state's obsolete structure so that it can remain at the service of those who seek continuity.

The background data showing that the law has been violated is useless, the law itself is useless when those who administrate it think more about the bench they sit on than the justice that concerns us.

Peru

Foreign Minister Heads European Commercial Mission

PY0405142194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1550 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Stockholm, 3 May (EFE)—It was disclosed today that Peruvian Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg has stated that the little attention paid to the problem of terrorism is the best sign that Sweden has changed its opinion on Peru.

At the end of his two-day visit to Stockholm, heading a Peruvian commercial mission, Goldenberg signed an agreement for the mutual protection of investments with Swedish Foreign Trade Minister Ulf Dinkelspiel, who hopes the Swedish presence will increase in Peru.

Bilateral trade currently leans in Sweden's favor. In 1992, Sweden bought foodstuffs, fruit, vegetables, and textile products from Peru totalling $8.7 million and sold machinery, vehicles, engines, and optical equipment to Peru worth $40.5 million.

Goldenberg also met with Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas and with some 100 Swedish businessmen to whom the Peruvian delegation explained the economic, political, and social stability Peru currently enjoys.

Goldenberg told EFE that Peru "experienced the greatest economic growth in the continent" during 1993, which amounted to 7 percent, while the population grew by just 2 percent, adding that in 1994 "we expect 5 percent growth."

Legislator Carlos Montoya and engineer Arturo Woodman, who are part of the Peruvian delegation, lectured at the Stockholm University's Latin American Institute on the subject: Peru, an Emerging Economy.

The Peruvian delegation met with representatives of the largest Nordic bank, the Skandinaviska Enskilda Bank (SE-Banken) to whom they explained the privatization of the Peruvian banking sector.

Goldenberg told EFE that the Peruvian Government "in the next few months will continue its privatization project" which includes two large banks, two insurance companies, several mining companies, and several hotel chains. Goldenberg also mentioned the constitutional reform that will allow Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori to run for reelection for another five years, adding, "this will not be the only change."

Goldenberg said the Constitution, "drafted by a Constituent Assembly, is the only one" in Peruvian history to have been "ratified by a popular referendum." This has never happened with any of the previous Peruvian constitutions.

Regarding the possibility of Fujimori being reelected for another presidential term, Goldenberg stated that Peru is "a full democracy," and reelection "is a mere possibility" about which the president "has not even stated his intention."

Unlike on other occasions, the subject of terrorism was not raised during his visit to Sweden. Goldenberg asserted that the problem still exists and mentioned the successful arrest of "Shining Path" leader Abimael Guzman. "without the firing of a single shot."

The Peruvian minister did not dismiss the link between terrorists and drugs, although he reiterated that coca production and consumption in Peru is an "ancestral tradition" of the people who use it in a "quite different way" from that of modern society.

Goldenberg requested "concrete support from the international community" to implement alternative plans, but "the consumer countries have not seriously tackled" the problem.

The visit was free of any incidents, although diplomatic circles feared action by some of the 2,500 Peruvians residing in Sweden, which prompted the tightening of safety measures around the Peruvian visitors.

The delegation included Lima Stock Exchange Director Jose Luque Otero and representatives of the National Industries Association and of the Chamber of Commerce. They will also visit Italy, Switzerland, and Austria to inform European investors about the Peruvian economy.

The visit of the Peruvian commercial mission ended with a meeting with the Swedish Riksdag's (parliament) Foreign Commission. They left for Milan, the second phase of the tour, this afternoon.

Exiled Military Officers Return to Venezuela

PY0405210894 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The five exiled Venezuelan military men who participated in the November coup returned today to their country. They are Captain Islain Longa, Lieutenants Henry Rosales, Richard Herrera, and Jose Silva, and technician Richard Machado. The remaining officers exiled in Peru will return to Venezuela very soon.

Retired Generals Tried for Insulting Armed Forces

PY0505035094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1617 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Lima, 4 May (EFE)—Six retired Peruvian Army generals have been brought before the Military Court for statements or publications considered "offensive" to the Armed Forces or an "insult to their superiors." Today, the Military Court Supreme Council will hear the charges against Generals Jaime Salinas and German Parra, who criticized the performance of General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, Army commander and commander of the Armed Forces Joint Command.

For Gen. Parra alone, the military prosecutor has requested a sentence of eight months' imprisonment. Salinas and Parra maintain that their comments were personal and were made in their capacity as civilians now they are retired.

The Military Court has sentenced Gen. Luis Cisneros Vizquerra to 90 days' imprisonment "for insulting his superiors." Cisneros was interior minister under the military government that ruled between 1968 and 1980.

Gen. Alberto Arciniega, who presided over the court that sentenced Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman to life imprisonment, in January 1993 was charged with offense and insult. He sought refuge in the Argentine Embassy because of these charges and then travelled to that country.

Gen. Jose Pastor Vives has been charged with insulting his superiors, and was sentenced to a provisional sentence of 60 days' imprisonment. Vives was involved in the thwarted coup of 13 November 1992, but was pardoned later on.

The trial of Gen. Sinesio Jarama began on 2 May. He is charged with allegedly insulting the Army as an institution.

Gen. Salinas, who was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for having headed the aborted 13 November coup, is also being tried for offending the Armed Forces and insulting his superiors. Gen. Parra, former transportation minister during former President Alan Garcia's government (1985-90), is charged with offenses and insults.

Several constitutional experts have stated that although the Constitution establishes some political restrictions for military officers on duty, it is not the same for those who are retired and are regarded as civilians.

Raul Ferrera, former dean of the Lima Law School, stated the application of the military code contradicts the Constitution, which guarantees the right to an opinion of every citizen, without distinction.

Uruguay

Presidential Hopeful Vazquez Interviewed

PY0405234494 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 28 Apr 94 pp 13, 60

[Interview with Broad Front presidential candidate and Montevideo Mayor Tabare Vazquez by unidentified BUSQUEDA reporter; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [BUSQUEDA] You have said that the electoral "options" in November will be "between neoliberalism and democracy." What did you mean by that?

[Vazquez] A society can be individualist or collectivist. The first centers on a person's ego, and so society inevitably becomes egoistic. The other alternative seeks the common good for present and future generations. I think that is the key to the matter. The neoliberal concept points to an individualist society, with free competition, where "the best" wins. If we all participated on equal terms I could, perhaps if not accept it, at least analyze it. But not everyone starts from the same point. Some people start with an advantage and arrive first. This is tremendously unfair. Besides, individualist societies can lead to the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of very few individuals, who end up controlling the rest of the population. This system considerably weakens democracy. In this system the people do not govern. They are governed by a group of individuals who have concentrated strength, power, and wealth. This group has power and force because it has wealth. This is not democratic, and it materializes as a consequence of the neoliberal concept. On the contrary, societies working with a democratic, collectivist, socialist spirit tend to be a model like the one we have tried to implement in Montevideo, where we have tried to decentralize power, seek people's participation, and redistribute wealth to deepen democracy. This is why we think we will see a confrontation of two sets of ideas. On the one hand there are the liberal or neoliberal ideas—whatever you want to call it, it is the same thing—and on the other progressive, socialist ideas. That is the center of the confrontation. I do not think there are other options.

[BUSQUEDA] Who are the "socialists" and who the "neoliberals?"

[Vazquez] I do not want to characterize Uruguayans as good or bad. Some of us simply think in one way, and others in a different way. In the National Party the Herreraist faction, other related movements, and Gonzalo Aguirre all point to a neoliberal idea. I do not know what Carlos Julio Pereyra would do in government. All I know is that he has participated in the government with the ruling party, and has supported liberal or neoliberal ideas. The Colorado Party as a whole has neoliberal principles. All Colorado Party factions support neoliberal principles. Pacheco Areco, Jorge Battle, and Luis Maria Sanguinetti do so.

[BUSQUEDA] In your opinion, then, a vote for either the National Party or the Colorado Party suggests a vote for "neoliberalism," while the Broad Front alone supports "socialist" ideas?

[Vazquez] Yes, although it is not only the Broad Front that believes in alternatives to the neoliberal system. Many progressive groups within the National Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Civic Union, and the PGP [Party of Government by the People], which do not want to join in a coalition with the Colorado Party, also have alternative ideas. [passage omitted]

[BUSQUEDA] Why do you think Cerro Largo Mayor Rodolfo Nin Novoa is the best candidate for becoming your running mate?

[Vazquez] I do not know if he is the best candidate, but from the point of view of an alliance, he has extremely important credentials. He was Cerro Largo's mayor during the previous period, and was reelected. There must be a reason. He could have chosen between the Cerro Largo city hall and a seat in the Senate. He chose to continue in a very difficult position, in a very poor department, with very few resources. This shows that he is a very serious politician. He also worked against the impunity law. Then he worked against the imposition of the state enterprises law, and on very important municipal issues. He defended the deregulation of services and functions, political decentralization, and people's participation. He has maintained really progressive ideas within his party, adopting clear positions. He recently said that he was willing to resign from the National Party if necessary to defend his political position. This is extremely serious and consistent. Nin Novoa's political behavior moves in a clearly defined direction, which must be respected. For all these reasons I think he is an excellent candidate for becoming part of a presidential ticket.

[BUSQUEDA] What will be the main issues in the campaign?

[Vazquez] We think the numbers have to add up, the accounts have to balance, but our ultimate objective is not balanced accounts but an improvement in people's standards of living. All issues that have something to do with human beings will be given priority. For instance, the issue of social security. There is no social security without solidarity.

[BUSQUEDA] Do you think the current social security system must be reformed? Or should it be left the way it is now?

[Vazquez] I think we have to improve the system, not destroy it. We must improve the system's administration and the collection and distribution of funds. But all improvements must be done without changing the state role, and insisting on each employee's work history.

[BUSQUEDA] How would you face the fight against inflation?

[Vazquez] The current government reduced the country's inflation rate, but we want to reduce it faster. At what cost and how is another matter, but inflation dropped. We also want a fiscal balance, such as that we achieved in the municipality. This shows that efficiency and the good handling of figures can also be achieved by groups that are not liberal or neoliberal. The difference is that progressive groups seek to benefit man. Figures are not the final objective. Now if you ask me what will be more important, or whether I will support and seek loans for bankrupt financial institutions and banks, the answer is no. That will not prevail in any way.

[BUSQUEDA] The state has more than 250,000 employees. Would you implement programs aimed at reducing the number of public employees?

[Vazquez] The number of public employees during my municipal administration dropped from 13,000 to 10,500. That was all right because there were too many employees. But I cannot give you an answer now about what we will do if we win the presidential race. If the situation in the national administration is similar to the situation we found at the Montevideo city hall, we will make adjustments. In Montevideo we had a significant number of administrative personnel and few people rendering services to the people, which is what the public needs. We spent more money in the area of services than in any other area. Perhaps the problem is similar at the national level. But we will see about that later.

[BUSQUEDA] How would you face the issue of privatization if you become president?

[Vazquez] Without prejudices. Private initiative can also generate jobs. If it is correctly handled it can also redistribute wealth. Private initiative is not a dirty word. We can say the same thing about "entrepreneurs" or "enterprises."

[BUSQUEDA] Will you speed up the devaluation of our currency if you become president?

[Vazquez] From our point of view it is clear that our currency is overvalued, and there is a clear increase in the import of luxurious items. This is the result of the free market concept. These kinds of policies inevitably

end up benefiting a small group of people. This group handles large amounts of capital and treats Uruguay as if it were just a financial market. This path is not best for the public. On the other hand, it is true that inflation punishes most harshly the poorest sectors, and particularly those with fixed incomes. I think the goal is to reduce the inflation rate. We must change the concept that the country is just a financial market. We must produce and export more. Trade must be balanced, or it must show a surplus.

[BUSQUEDA] Yet exporters contend that as the dollar is cheap, their activity is not cost effective. If you are elected president, do you think you will have to implement some measures in the exchange system?

[Vazquez] In the exchange system, and in the country's system as well, because inflation is not the result of only one factor. At one time this administration argued that inflation stemmed from a fiscal imbalance. It therefore undertook a fiscal adjustment to roll down inflation. The fiscal adjustment had some measure of success, but inflation did not go down as much as expected. The administration resorted to other measures that were in obvious alignment with laissez-faire ideas. I think we have to seek a meeting of minds if we are to curb inflation—which weighs more heavily on precisely the neediest—through a different economic, political, and social concept. This cannot be achieved overnight, and the steps to be taken will be gradual. We are not proposing a radical change in policy, but rather a gradual one, trying to keep inflation under control but changing into a producer country through a major industrial retooling.

[BUSQUEDA] You said in Rivera last December that wealth ought to be "taxed" and redistributed. Are you considering establishing new taxes or increasing those that are already in effect?

[Vazquez] Tax policy should be changed, for example on landholding of unproductive large estates, or on those used for extensive rather than intensive agriculture. Taxes should be levied on the financial sector, and the country's production should be fostered by easing the tax burden on productive activities. Wealth should be taxed so that those who have more may pay more, changing the distribution of taxes. This change may allow us, for example, to reduce the VAT [value added tax].

[BUSQUEDA] Will you encourage the elimination of bank confidentiality if you gain the presidency?

[Vazquez] Bank secrecy in Uruguay has led some international sectors to the opinion that Uruguay is a stronghold for the laundering of drug money. If Congress does enact such legislation, and the judiciary gives its okay, I believe that it would be quite appropriate to do away with bank confidentiality in some cases.

[BUSQUEDA] Referring to you and to the Broad Front's problems, Luis Eduardo Gonzalez, a sociologist, said in an article published in the MIAMI HERALD: "We have a jockey who is a real pro, but the problem is the horse." What is your opinion on this remark?

[Vazquez] The Broad Front is neither the pinnacle nor the ideal as a political party, but it is making much headway. The Broad Front has had internal problems, but over the last few months it has shown very significant coherence. First, it elected provisional authorities who are also empowered with significant decision-making power. Second, it proposed that the decisions of the second Broad Front Congress—held in August 1991—concerning political alliances be firmly pursued. Third—and this is something that would have been unimaginable seven or eight months ago—it has been able to draft a framework program dealing with crucial issues such as the external debt, relations with the Armed Forces and the police, and the country's economic and financial policy. We will be able to use this program as a basis for our discussions with other political parties. Moreover, it has nominated its consensus candidates.

Slovenia's Peterle Discusses Economic Cooperation

AU0305152394 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Today, Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle talked with his Uruguayan hosts all about economic cooperation and current events in Europe and Latin America. Minister Peterle will travel to Argentina tomorrow and talk with diplomats there about cooperation within the United Nations, as this country is a nonpermanent member of the Security Council. In the two countries, Peterle will discuss the lifting of visas and cooperation in culture, education, and science. He will also meet representatives of Slovenes living there.

Venezuela

Council of Ministers Approves Bank Debit Tax

PA0405135394 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno; from the "180 Minutes of News" newscast]

[Text] The extraordinary Council of Ministers meeting approved guidelines for the decree establishing taxes on bank debits which is scheduled to enter into effect on 9 May. The announcement was made by acting Finance Minister Luis Javier Grisanti who explained that the tax will be levied on all operations carried out by individuals or legal entities at the country's financial institutions.

The banks will act as withholding agents and will notify the financial authorities of the total amount collected, one day following the collection date. According to the decree, the states, municipalities, Central Bank of Venezuela [BCV], investment funds, the National Savings and Loans Bank, the autonomous and academic institutions, and foundations are exempted from paying the tax

since these organizations are considered state institutions. Exempt operations also include those related to BCV's legal reserve accounts, operations between PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum] and the BCV, and those related to financial intermediation in mortgage banks as well as savings and loans banks.

Likewise, exemptions include all transfers related to a same account holder within the same bank institution, or between his deposit and his liquid asset funds. Diplomatic missions, consular and international organizations, and the personnel assigned to these offices are also exempt from paying the tax.

[Begin Grisanti recording] Article 13 of the decree law establishes a very important guideline whereby in those cases of bank accounts opened for payroll purposes, employers will not be allowed to transfer to the workers amounts paid as a result of the tax. In other words, anytime the payroll account is debited by the total wages to be paid to the employees, it has been clearly determined that the employer will deduct the corresponding amount. Of course, debits caused by the account holder after having received payment will be taxed. [end recording]

The acting finance minister stressed that because of the provisional nature of the tax, payment will not entail a decrease in the taxes to be paid the following year by taxpayers.

Central Bank To Auction Dollars

PA0505040194 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Central Bank of Venezuela has announced it will auction dollars starting on Wednesday to meet the high demand in the foreign exchange market. According to a communique from the bank, the measure is aimed at proportionately distributing among agents the amount of dollars at a carefully calculated average price.

The announcement also specifies that the amount of U.S. currency requested by agents must not exceed 10 percent of the amount sold the previous day. Banks and other operators may sell this foreign currency to the public for a profit that must not exceed the amount of 20 cents above the original purchase price.

Although the demand for dollars continued on Tuesday at a frenetic pace, the comparative level of the foreign currency's current price decreased. In fact, the dollar's price closed at 128.50 bolivares in the banks and at 129.50 in the foreign exchange houses. Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Venezuela continued to supply foreign currency to enable financial organizations to meet public demand.

According to business groups, the increase in the dollar's price will be reflected in product prices over the next few months. According to the Jose Bouza Izquierdo, chairman of the National Banking Council, citizens should not get nervous and make purchases that encourage an increase in the dollar's exchange rate, because the exchange market situation is beginning to stabilize.

Police Defuse Small Bomb in Downtown Caracas

PA0505032194 Paris AFP in Spanish 2035 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Caracas, 3 May (AFP)—AFP correspondents have reported the Bomb Squad the Political Police [as received] (Disip) [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] and agents of the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) today at 1600 (2000 GMT) defused a small bomb some 50 meters away from the AFP office in Caracas.

A police source told AFP the explosive device was planted inside a briefcase full of blank sheets of paper left in a building located on Urdaneta Ave. The officer added: "We have not ruled out that this is an action similar to the one that occurred in the Caracas subway on 2 May."

On the morning of 2 May, a homemade bomb exploded in a Caracas subway car, wounding five people. An unknown group, the Popular Liberation Front Urban Command [Comando Urbano del Frente de Liberacion Nacional], claimed responsibility for the attack.

In the early afternoon of 2 May, the Political Police reported it had identified two minors as the suspected perpetrators of the Caracas subway attack. The Attorney General's Office will prosecute their cases.

Anonymous calls to the PTJ on 3 May reported the planting of explosive devices in at least four places in Caracas.